Records of Early English Drama

CHESHIRE including CHESTER

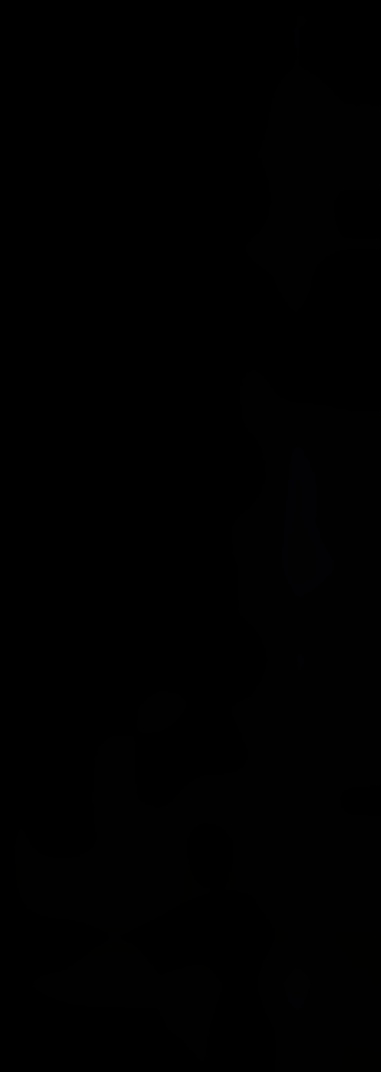
1

Introduction

The Records

Province of York and Diocese of Chester

Acton to Chester c 1624



RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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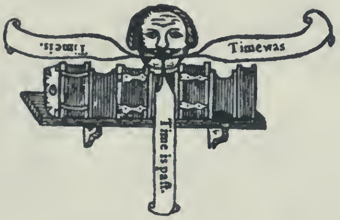
Time is.
Time was
Time is past.

CHESHIRE
including
CHESTER

EDITED BY ELIZABETH BALDWIN, LAWRENCE M. CLOPPER,
and DAVID MILLS

1
Introduction
The Records

Province of York and Diocese of Chester
Acton to Chester *c* 1624

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and

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Records of Early English Drama

The aim of Records of Early English Drama (REED) is to find, transcribe, and publish external evidence of dramatic, ceremonial, and minstrel activity in Great Britain before 1642. The executive editor would be grateful for comments on and corrections to the present volume and for having any relevant additional material drawn to her attention at REED, 150 Charles St West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1K9 or s.maclean@utoronto.ca. Detailed information about the REED series can be found on the internet at http://www.reed.utoronto.ca/publist.html.

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Preface

As its title suggests, *Cheshire including Chester* combines two research initiatives. First in 1979 REED published an edition of the dramatic records for the city of Chester, edited by Lawrence M. Clopper, one of the first volumes published in the REED series. At the time of publication a series policy for inclusion of diverse forms of entertainment records had not been agreed upon, and guidelines for a standard chronological approach to dating entries drawn from sources with different accounting systems had yet to be determined. The full range of REED research had yet to be influenced by work on key classes of county and diocesan archives – the quarter session and ecclesiastical court records that have yielded so much to our understanding of local resistance through popular culture to the Protestant Reformation. *Chester* (1979) has been out of print for some years now. A number of factors have therefore encouraged us to publish a second edition, revised according to editorial standards established in the early 1980s for the REED series.

Subsequently in 1992 Elizabeth Baldwin and David Mills began work on an edition of the dramatic records of the county of Cheshire, systematically searching the civil and ecclesiastical court records. Inevitably such research identified new material relating not only to the wider county but also to Chester. Moreover, since 1979, further guild records such as the Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Orders (1587–1607) had become available, and David Mills had discovered Christopher Goodman's Letterbook in a North Wales record office. These documents expanded and illuminated the Chester records text in significant ways.

Although the editorial collaboration of David Mills and Lawrence Clopper was not anticipated when Baldwin and Mills began work on the Cheshire county collection, they graciously accepted the challenge when the opportunity to combine their Chester records and expand the editorial apparatus was presented. We are grateful also to Bill Harnum and Suzanne Rancourt at the University of Toronto Press for encouraging REED to produce the second edition of Chester in the context of its county.

Sally-Beth MacLean
Executive Editor

Acknowledgments

We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the many people whose support, knowledge, and expertise have helped to bring this project to completion. Since the present volume includes the second edition of *Chester* in the REED series, we recall here the support of some who helped with that first edition as well as the many others who have worked with us to prepare the present volumes of *Cheshire including Chester*.

Behind the editors of any REED collection stands an expert team who ensures that all details are confirmed and all statements supported. We would like to salute their meticulous work and acknowledge their positive contribution to both the first edition of *Chester* and *Cheshire including Chester*. Inevitably the team has changed during the quarter of a century that separates the editions. Alexandra Johnston was executive editor for *Chester*, Sally-Beth MacLean was editorial associate, and Ian Lancashire was bibliographer. We gratefully recall the contribution of the late Prudence Tracy, at that time the liaison with the University of Toronto Press and a dear friend and supporter of REED in its earlier stages.

Lawrence Clopper's initial project for the 1979 edition was to end with 1575 but the REED project extended the end date to 1642; consequently Cameron Louis transcribed a number of duplicate entries for the years between 1575 and 1642 and Richard Green checked these latter entries on site and added several new items from REED's bibliographical searches. Bella Schauman checked the majority of the editor's transcriptions for *Chester* against xeroxes and microfilms at the REED office while Dr Louis checked and resolved in Chester the readings of those entries that could not be photographed and he and Dr Green completed the manuscript descriptions (foliations, measurements, etc).

Dr Schauman provided the translations for most of the 1979 Latin entries, the remainder being done by Abigail Young. For the present edition Patrick Gregory, aided by Dr Young, has revised the earlier translations and provided translations of new records. Dr Young translated the Anglo-Norman document which was checked by William Edwards.

We also gratefully acknowledge members of the team for *Cheshire including Chester* who, in addition to their usual diligent assurance of the accuracy and clarity of the edition, have had to communicate with three editors in three different continents and to assimilate an earlier publication into a new one. Jessica Freeman, Kirstie Jackson, Jane Laughton, Sylvia Thomas, and Eileen White carried out on-site checks of transcriptions and descriptions and sought out new materials for us. Sally-Beth MacLean, executive editor of the edition, urged us inexorably and indefatigably onward. Arleane Ralph, the associate editor and indexer, detected and resolved many problems for us; Julia Pope deputized for Arleane while she was on leave; John Lehr, our bibliographer, assisted by Joanna Falck, scrupulously checked out and, where necessary, tactfully and appropriately queried our references and statements; we received help also from his predecessor, Miriam Skey, and her assistant Kathy Chung. William Cooke created a new English Glossary for the edition. Subhash Shanbhag created the county and city maps, Gordon Oxley set the type for the text, and Carolyn Black edited and proofed the copy.

All archivists, guildsmen, and other holders of records were generous with their time and records. In particular, throughout the years of this project we have received invaluable help from the staff at the record office(s) in Chester, which provided the bulk of the material in both *Chester* (1979) and *Cheshire including Chester*. A succession of chief archivists and their staffs both at the former City Record Office – Elizabeth Berry, Annette Kennett, and Marilyn Lewis – and at the County Record Office and subsequently at the merged Cheshire and Chester Archives – Brian C. Redwood, Ian Dunn, and Jonathan Peplar – were always helpful in locating and delivering records and arranging for records from elsewhere to be placed on deposit for our use. Jonathan Peplar also obtained permissions on our behalf to quote from documents on deposit at the Archives. They and their deputies – Simon Harrison at the City Archives, and Caroline Williams and Katie Goodrum at the Cheshire and Chester Archives – also gave expert assistance with some readings and transcriptions. Annette Kennett and Marilyn Lewis at the City Archives and Paul Newman at the Cheshire and Chester Archives organized and oversaw the photographing of an enormous number of the documents. All the staff of these archives made every effort to meet our needs even though it was obvious that their normal duties were enough to keep them fully occupied. Chester History and Heritage also provided copies from the collection of the Chester Archaeological Society of the illustrations on pp xliii–xliv, and Ms Pamela Lynch and colleagues at that centre gave helpful bibliographical assistance.

At the time of the *Chester* volume some of the guild documents had been deposited with the City Archives but many others remained in guild hands or had been placed in the Guildhall Museum. We wish to thank all of the companies that made their records available at that time.

Records are, of course, at the centre of the editions and we wish to thank the many institutions and individuals for allowing us to publish extracts from the manuscripts in their possession. The list is extensive: the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford; the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York; the British Library Board; the Cheshire Record Office and the Chester City Archives (subsequently amalgamated as the Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies); the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral; Congleton Town Council; Denbighshire Record Office, Ruthin; Greater Manchester County Record Office; the Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool; the Director and University Librarian, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester; The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office); the churchwardens, archivist, and Rural Dean for the parish church of St Peter, Prestbury, Cheshire; Massey College, University of Toronto; the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto; the Dean and Canons of Windsor; Hugh Wibraham, Hertfordshire; the duke of Westminster and the marquis of Cholmondeley; the Master and Members of the Merchant Drapers' and Hosiers' Company, Chester; and the Steward of the Shoemakers' and Cordwainers' Company.

We have benefited from the knowledge and skills of a number of individuals. Alan Coman of the University of Toronto generously shared his discovery of and researches in the Congleton records with us. Jane Laughton identified several relevant documents for us and Elizabeth Danbury drew our attention to the material in the Denbighshire Record Office. We wish in particular to acknowledge not only the help but also the hospitality of Hilarie McNae of the Shoemakers' Company and R.K. Williams of the Merchant Drapers' Company and their families for allowing us to consult company records in their homes. Joy Mills came to our rescue by helping check the dating of guild records. And special mention must be made of the anonymous scholars who read the manuscript in draft and provided constructive advice; the final result is by far the better for their input.

The research on and the editing of the documents was supported by a number of agencies: the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Summer Fellowship, 1972; the American Council of Learned Societies for a Grant-in-Aid, 1974; the American Philosophical Society for a Grant-in-Aid, 1975; the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Research Grant, 1976–7; the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for its Negotiated Grant; the Leverhulme Trust, 1992–3, for a grant enabling the employment of Elizabeth Baldwin as a Research Associate; the University of Liverpool Research Development Fund for the purchase of a designated laptop computer in 1993; and the British Academy for funding David Mills' study-leave in 1995. Without such help we could not have assembled this collection.

Similarly without outside funding REED and its volumes would not exist. REED's research and publication costs were provided by the British Academy; Father Edward Jackman and the Jackman Foundation; the National Endowment for the Humanities; and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Finally to marry a REED editor is to marry a project. Joy Mills has shared a home and husband with Chester's plays and Cheshire's records all her married life, and her patience and support are beyond praise. The financial and moral support provided by Daphne Baldwin, Elizabeth Baldwin's mother, enabled her daughter to continue her REED research when grants and jobs failed to materialize. Elizabeth also met her future husband, Anthony Leiman, in the course of REED research in London. His willingness to carry the REED computer and listen to detailed discussions of Cheshire musicians and bearwards proved his suitability to be a REED spouse. Lawrence Clopper's wife, the late Pegram Harrison, shared most of the ups and downs as the manuscript of *Chester* (1979) edged towards completion. She is remembered for her support and help and patience during the editor's absences of self and mind and we dedicate these volumes in her memory.

Historical Background

Cheshire lies in the Midland Gap, an area of low plain between the Pennines and the North Wales uplands. Until the 1974 reorganization of the English counties its northern boundary with Lancashire was formed by the River Mersey, and its plainland is echoed in the Lancashire plain north of the river. To the south it is separated from adjoining Staffordshire by the geological feature known as the Ellesmere moraine, an ill-defined area of lakes and meres which forms the watershed between the two great rivers of Wales – the Severn flowing southwest and the Dee flowing northwest. The county boundary with Wales in the west has fluctuated over the centuries, though the River Dee for the most part delimits the county and the Pennine foothills form the boundary in the east with Yorkshire. Cheshire's only coastline is at the point where the Wirral Peninsula, a broad shelf of rock some fifty feet high between the estuaries of the Rivers Mersey and Dee, meets the Irish Sea.[1]

Geologically the county is divided north-south by a line of sandstone outcrops known as the Mid-Cheshire Ridge, which provides the soft, red building stone that was used for the county's major buildings – castles and churches. The Pennine foothills, a very different world from the rest of the county, provided millstone grit for domestic constructions from at least the Middle Ages. But the Cheshire plain is the key to understanding the development of the county. The retreating ice of the ice age left a thick drift of heavy clays and sands which drained badly. The ground was boggy and streams and rivers meandered across it. The modern climate has been described as 'typically slightly cool and slightly moist becoming appreciably cooler and damper as one approaches and scales the Pennine heights.'[2] Most of Cheshire was densely wooded when the first settlers arrived, with willows and reed-beds in the river valleys and oaks on the higher banks. From Domesday Survey it seems that there was extensive woodland in the eastern and much of the central area of the county, though Wirral, the most densely populated and arable area, and much of the west had by that time been cleared.[3] The availability of timber determined the commonest form of construction throughout the county, the timber-framed house with wattle-and-daub infill and reed-thatch roofs. Only during the seventeenth century were bricks made from the abundant clay employed in the construction of domestic houses and as infill to replace the wattle-and-daub on the older timber-framed buildings.[4] The area was inhospitable to initial settlers and communication was difficult because of a terrain which required drainage and clearance.

Foremost among the mineral wealth of the county is salt, which was an established industry before the Romans came and which continues to the present day. The salt beds of the Weaver Valley were important to the economy of central north Cheshire, and the settlements of Condate (Northwich) and Salinae (Middlewich) are identified in the Roman period, with Nantwich, the most important of the salt towns by the sixteenth century, probably also productive at the same time. Trackways, known as 'saltways,' formed the routes by which traders and their packhorses transported the salt from the county to other parts of England and Wales and to the coast for export; these old lines of communication antedate the more significant Roman road network and can still be traced today. The distribution of place names indicates routes running from the three salt towns to Chester, and other routes leading to Macclesfield and to Yorkshire, and to Warrington and the north.[5] The intensive development of the salt industry changed the landscape, producing meres and flashes and causing subsidence in the local communities. Domesday Survey of 1086 reveals a county poor and sparsely populated, with large areas described as 'waste' ('wasta'). The significance of this term is debated by historians, and what may be a compromise solution is proposed by P.H. Sawyer and A.T. Thacker who argue that the term in the west means land of no value to the lord, but that in the east of the county it may well be indicative of 'the harrying of the north in 1069 by William the Conqueror in response to northern resistance.'[6] It was this campaign that led William to establish a castle at Chester. Cheshire's subsequent administrative development progressed under the manorial system which the Normans established and the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries saw a rapid colonization of woodland and waste.[7]

The main industry of Cheshire was agriculture. The county could be self-sustaining in food, including fish from the rivers, but its heavy soil was more suited to pastoral than to arable farming though the latter was not insignificant. D. Huw Owen notes, 'In Cheshire northern areas tended to concentrate on cattle rearing and fattening whilst in southern and western localities the heavier soil proved to be more suitable for dairy farming. Sheep farming represented a relatively insignificant role in the local economy.'[8] The absence of sheep from the lowland areas gives added force to the comedy of the Welsh shepherds of Chester's 'Shepherds' play. Hides and dairy products – in particular Cheshire cheese for which the county was nationally recognized by the end of the sixteenth century – were its main products.[9] But A.D.M. and C.B. Phillips warn against underestimating the area of land devoted to arable farming, and they suggest that in most of the county *c* 1600–50 there was 'a close balance of arable and permanent grassland.'[10] The heavy acid clay had to be treated with lime ('marle') before cultivation of corn could begin, a practice observed by John Leland in his itinerary of 1535–43.[11] Daniel King's *Vale-Royall* of 1656 comments on the lavish entertainment available at communal festivities in the county: 'Touching their House-keeping, It is bountiful, and comparable with any other Shire in the Realm. And that is to be seen at their Weddings and Burials, but chiefly at their Wakes, which they yearly hold (although it be of late years well laid down).'[12]

This focus on farming determined the nature of settlement. Outside the more populous areas in the west, medieval Cheshire was a community of dispersed or semi-dispersed settlements in a rural landscape. The characteristic unit was the hamlet or small village; apart from Chester, which for strategic reasons developed as an urban community with a diversified economy, there were few towns of any size or significance in Cheshire during our period (see further below, pp xxiii–xxx).[13]

Principal Routes

The problems of establishing the medieval and early modern road system are well known to historical geographers. The data are supplied from early maps, royal itineraries, descriptions of chroniclers and travellers, and the correlation with modern road networks. Cheshire, which has been the subject of some recent studies, presents particular problems since the evidence for this somewhat remote and relatively inhospitable area is slight.[14]

Until the arrival of the Romans in Cheshire in the first century AD the easiest means of communication within the county may well have been by river. Probably some of the saltways which can be traced today by the 'salter' place names along their route were of ancient origin; they were the tracks along which the products of the brine-pits were carried eastwards into Yorkshire and westwards into Wales (see above, p xiv).

The Romans, however, recognized as later English monarchs would that Cheshire was a strategic military area for campaigns against the Celts. It was the base for Roman and post-Roman expeditions to subdue the Celts and to supply the camps along the Welsh coast by sea. It was a necessary staging-point on the way to Hadrian's Wall, the northern frontier with the Picts and Scots, where warfare would continue into the sixteenth century. Accordingly the Romans constructed the first engineered roads for their military purposes. These constituted the only 'metalled' roads during our period and form the skeleton of the modern road system. Inevitably they focus upon Chester. One of the main Roman roads out of London was Watling Street, which ran northwest to Wroxeter near Shrewsbury. From there a branch ran to Whitchurch (Mediolanum) and thence via Malpas, Stretton, and Aldford, where it crossed the Dee, to Chester. The more important route from London, for the Middle Ages, was a variation of this, a branch from Watling Street to pass through Coventry, Tamworth, and Lichfield, entering Cheshire via Stone and Newcastle under Lyme. It then passed through Nantwich before reaching Chester.[15] The road thus linked Chester with Lichfield, in whose diocese the county stood till 1541, and with Coventry, a town with which it had trading links and which staged the most famous civic cycle play in England.

From Chester a road also known as Watling Street ran in an east/northeasterly direction via Condate (Northwich), site of a Roman fort and a salt-producing town, to the Roman fort at Mamucium (Manchester) and thence to Eboracum (York). In the Middle Ages this would be the main route between Chester and the abbey of Vale Royal, a staging point in royal itineraries. This road intersected with another Roman road, entering from Whitchurch and joining two other Roman sites: Salinae, modern Middlewich, which was evidently the centre of salt production in the area; and Wilderspool, on the south bank of the Mersey opposite Warrington, the fording point of the river and a centre of industrial production. Another road ran from Chester direct to Wilderspool. From Wilderspool the route ran north to Birrens in Dumfriesshire. Further roads from Chester ran to Meols, the port on Wirral, and to the Roman fort at Segontium (Caernarfon). Archaeology indicates that there was also a road through Nantwich, probably running from Whitchurch to Middlewich, though its route cannot be determined.[16]

Reconstructions of medieval routes also suggest an established way from Chester through Macclesfield and onto Aqua Arnemetiae (Buxton). This route is among the saltways and Buxton was a Roman site, so the road may well have been of some antiquity. The Gough map indicates a way from Chester to Birkenhead, where there was a priory and a ferry crossing of the Mersey.[17]

Because of the continuing strategic importance of Chester and the economic importance of Cheshire salt throughout our period, Cheshire was linked by a system of roads established by the Romans and by probably more ancient tracks to the surrounding counties and further afield. Its comparative dearth of visiting playing companies may be attributable more to the lack of sponsors than to problems of communication. This dearth, however, may be more apparent than real; tantalizing hints in the Chester records and in extracts from otherwise lost records from Macclesfield and from the Legh family of Lyme suggest that there may have been significantly more visiting performers than we can now trace.

Settlement

The most favoured areas for settlement lay within Wirral and along the valleys of the lower Dee, Gowy, and Weaver. But the history of this border area is inextricably bound up with Wales, both through war and through trade. Documentary evidence for settlement once the Roman legions had left is sparse and much has to be deduced from place names and archaeology. Celtic place names cluster in Wirral and along the southwest of the county. There was a major Celtic monastic centre at Bangor-on-Dee (Bangor Is-coed) and there is some evidence to suggest that the Chester area was part of the kingdom of Powys in the seventh century, with Chester as a centre of government. Moreover, the forms of place names suggest that Welsh continued to be the primary spoken language in parts of the county at least into the seventh century.[18] Chester remained a trading centre for Wales into the Tudor period and Welsh was spoken by visitors and by citizens of Welsh origin in the streets of the town. The Welsh shepherds of the city's Whitsun Plays gently parody some of the stereotypical characteristics of the Welsh for Tudor Cestrians.

The Anglo-Saxons were first recorded in 616 when the Northumbrian king Aethelfrith made an incursion into the Celtic-held area of Chester and defeated the Celts at the battle of Chester. This incursion from the north may have confirmed an early Northumbrian dominance, but the defeat of the Northumbrian king Edwin by an alliance of the Mercian king Penda and the Celtic leader Cadwallon in 633 probably ensured Mercian domination of the region thereafter. The evidence is that Cheshire was settled by Anglo-Saxons coming from the Midlands rather than from the north, and that they settled first in the more sparsely populated land to the east of the Mid-Cheshire Ridge, only later moving in on the Celts in the more favoured western areas. The exact division between the kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia is not clear and was probably a fluctuating boundary; but the river name 'Mersey,' meaning 'the boundary river,' suggests that this river – one of the few rivers of the county to bear an Anglo-Saxon rather than a Celtic name – may have served at some time as a political divide.[19]

The Scandinavian conquest of Mercia in 874 appears to have had little obvious administrative impact on Cheshire, which seems to have remained a Mercian border region rather than a part of the Danelaw. There is a well-known account of a Danish raiding band who, in 893–4, were pursued to and besieged in Chester, described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as 'a deserted city.' In 902 the Scandinavian kingdom of Dublin fell and the Norsemen were expelled. They were allowed to set up a Hiberno-Norse community in Wirral. Perhaps anticipating the subsequent attempt by the Scandinavians to extend their territory, Aethelred began the refortification of Chester. The fortunes of the town rose again from this time (see below). With the restoration of the Norse king in Dublin in 917 the strategic importance of Wirral (notably Meols) and Chester as the link between Norse capitals of Dublin and York increased. Place names attest a strong Norse presence on Wirral, where 'Thingwall,' 'the assembly-field,' suggests a degree of self-government. There is also evidence for a Norse community in Chester, including a church dedicated to St Olave. Some Norse settlers of Wirral seem to have come to Cheshire not directly but via the Isle of Man, having in many cases been settled originally in Scotland. The Isle of Man thus forms the third point of an Irish Sea trading triangle with Dublin and Chester. It has been suggested that Norse was spoken in Cheshire until the thirteenth century.[20]

The position elsewhere in the county is less certain. There are small but significant groups of Norse place names in the northeast of the county, continuing similar groupings in Lancashire and suggesting the eastern limits of Scandinavian colonization from across the Pennines. Occasional Norse place names scattered across the county, however, suggest a sprinkling of Norse settlers in most parts of the county. The character of the place names and their locations suggest ready and peaceful integration of the minority immigrants. As part of the reconquest of the Danelaw, Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, and her successor established a series of forts at Eddisbury, Runcorn, and Thelwall, presumably as protection against possible Viking raids. Viking pirates also remained a threat to Irish Sea trade long after the expulsion of the last Scandinavian king from York in 954.

Relationships along what might be termed the 'interface' with the Welsh remained troubled and Welsh invasion always threatened the county. In 973 Edgar received the homage of the Welsh princes and was rowed by them on the Dee at Chester, an event which attests the continuing importance of the town. In 1056, following a series of successful campaigns, the king of Gwynedd, Gruffudd ap Llywelyn, became under-king to Edward the Confessor and was granted all the land that lay beyond the River Dee – land that would be taken back into England after the Norman Conquest but would eventually be returned to Wales.[21]

The Norman arrival in Cheshire completes the account of settlement. The Normans did not come to settle but to occupy, administer, and deter. The county was poor and thinly populated but the following centuries would witness repopulation and economic recovery.

Administration

Following the harrying of the north, Cheshire had to be remade. The county was reshaped by the Normans and their feudalized social structures. Hitherto, though an Anglo-Saxon 'shire,' it had no separate identity. That identity was formed with the creation of the earldom of Chester around 1071 and the establishment of eight baronies under the earl.[22] Its administrative area was progressively defined. In the Domesday Survey Cheshire extends as far as the River Clwyd in the west while the 'land between Ribble and Mersey' appears as an appendix to the Cheshire return. The Welsh lands were removed by the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284 which created the county of Flint. The area between the Ribble and Mersey became part of Lancashire when that county was established some time in the twelfth century but the diocesan limits of the see of Coventry and Lichfield and subsequently of the see of Chester continued to extend beyond the Mersey and Dee.[23]

By the tenth century Cheshire, with its 'Welsh additions,' was divided into twelve hundreds which were themselves probably derived from large estates of the Anglo-Saxon period.[24] These hundreds, ten of which lay within what would become the county boundaries, formed the framework for the Domesday Return of 1086. Their number was subsequently reduced to eight.

The Domesday Return lists only two tenants in chief, the earl of Chester and the bishop of Lichfield, though St Werburgh's Abbey was also returned separately. The earl's total holdings were extensive, with lands in twenty-one counties, and those in Cheshire, though extensive, were of low value. Probably the rich endowments of the earldom recognized the need for considerable investment to develop Chester as a military base. The immediate task of Hugh Lupus, the second earl, was to establish his garrison and administrative headquarters at the castle on the south side of Chester overlooking the River Dee.[25] Hugh gave extensive fiefs in the county to seven of his Norman followers. These fiefs, with the later addition of Stockport, constituted the eight baronies of the county, and their holders became powerful families locally, although all had estates elsewhere and none was permanently resident in the county.[26]

Another group of important servants of the earl were the officers of the three forests of Cheshire – Wirral (which by the eleventh century was mainly treeless); Mara and Mondrum, which together comprised the forest of Delamere; and the forest of Macclesfield. Wirral was created in the twelfth century and disafforested in 1376. Holders of the office of forester were among the prominent local families of the county thereafter. In Cheshire the earl allowed his tenants to assart land, and these concessions led to large-scale clearances of woodland and waste in the later thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries.[27]

The sequence of Norman earls ended in 1237 with the death of John le Scot, when the king took possession of the vacant earldom. Probably some time before this, Cheshire became a palatinate county, with a degree of independence from the rest of the country administratively and judicially until the later Tudor period, but we do not know exactly when this happened. The term 'palatinate' appears in official documents only from 1297.[28] Moreover, in 1506 by the so-called 'Great Charter' of Henry VII, the city of Chester itself was also made a county corporate and became judicially independent of the county of Cheshire. Cases which in other counties would have been heard and recorded in London were heard and recorded in Chester. In 1254 the king gave Cheshire and lands in north Wales to his son Edward although without the title of earl. In 1301 Edward I created his son Edward prince of Wales and earl of Chester, thereby beginning a tradition that still continues whereby the heir to the throne becomes both prince of Wales and earl of Chester.[29] The dominance of the earl discouraged other great lords from establishing their seats in a county that was, in any case, inconveniently remote from London and economically underdeveloped. No other member of the aristocracy had a principal residence in Cheshire; the important local families were drawn from upwardly mobile gentry. The earl himself did not of course live in the castle. It was essentially an administrative and judicial centre, with daily administration in the hands of the justiciar and the chamberlain, the latter becoming in time the leading administrative figure.[30] It became a royal residence only when monarchs came to Chester on visitation. There were few potential patrons for players and entertainers.

Cheshire was therefore geographically, administratively, and economically somewhat distinct from the rest of the country, and comments from Cestrians confirm that the inhabitants felt themselves to be a people apart. While this independence can be overstated 'the assembly of magnates and free men, in both its political and its judicial aspects, had a cohesion which was unique.'[31] Under the Tudors steps were taken to integrate the county more fully into the central administrative structures of the kingdom. This movement towards central control was accelerated by the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 against the closure of the monasteries. Cheshire was not prominently represented in that rising but was caught up in the need to ensure the compliance of the northern counties in the wishes of the Crown. This tightening of central control is manifest both in the establishment in 1537 of a regional authority, the Council of the North, itself the culmination of a process of administrative evolution, to ensure that the acts of the realm were enforced by local officers through a chain of administrative responsibility; and by the creation in 1541 of the see of Chester, whose bishops were expressly enjoined to enforce the teachings and practices of the Protestant faith in an area perceived to be predominantly resistant to those practices.[32]

The process of reintegration was gradual. At some levels it proceeded almost imperceptibly. At the start of the sixteenth century, for example, Chester appointed its own magistrates; in 1536 the magistrates had to be justices of the peace, answerable to the privy council. The lord lieutenant of Cheshire had local responsibility under the Crown for the defence of Cheshire and Chester in times of crisis; from 1553 the office was held by the earls of Derby.[33] By the charter of 1506 Chester, as a palatinate, had had its own 'parliamentum,' the county court at Chester Castle, and had therefore no parliamentary representation, but with the abolition of that 'parliamentum' the inhabitants petitioned for parliamentary representation and by an act of 1543 both county and city were granted the right to elect MPs.[34] At the same time the earl of Chester ceased to receive the earldom's revenues and the sheriffs of the city and county became directly responsible to the Crown for the collection of revenues.

The county and city were furthermore drawn into the jurisdiction of the regional councils established by the Tudors. Initially Cheshire was subject to the Council in the Marches. But the more important step was its inclusion from 1537 within the jurisdiction of the Council of the North, a body with wide-ranging judicial and governmental powers over the region north of the Humber (excluding the palatinate of Lancaster), which became based in York.[35] Some implications of this imposition of a higher central authority upon a region which had enjoyed considerable autonomy can be seen in the disputes surrounding the productions of Chester's Whitsun Plays in 1572 and 1575, when the mayor, the lord lieutenant, the earl of Huntingdon as president of the Council of the North, and the archbishop of York were drawn into a test-case of authority by the Chester Puritan Christopher Goodman. The summoning of Sir John Savage, who was mayor when the plays were performed in 1575, to the privy council is a clear indication of the subordination of local to central control which remained to the end of our period.

Records of the quarter sessions for Cheshire begin in 1557. Over time a regular circuit through the county evolved, easing the burden of travel for those attending. Morrill notes, 'Between 1608 and 1643 a fairly stable pattern developed; Epiphany Sessions were held at Chester; Easter Sessions at Knutsford; Midsummer Sessions at Nantwich; and Michaelmas Sessions either at Northwich or Middlewich.'[36]

The Church

Throughout the Middle Ages, Lancashire (south of the Ribble) and Cheshire constituted the archdeaconry of Chester within the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield; the archdeaconry in Cheshire comprised seven deaneries. St John's Church, outside Chester's city walls and overlooking the Dee, was said to have been founded by Bishop Wilfrid and Aethelred of Mercia *c* 689 and is mentioned in connection with Edgar's visit to Chester in 973. The church was re-endowed by Earl Leofric before 1057, and in 1075 Peter, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, transferred his see to St John's and the church was rebuilt as a cathedral. But in 1102 his successor, Robert, moved the see to Coventry. Nevertheless the bishops owned considerable property in the county and by the beginning of the fourteenth century the archdeacon of Chester had achieved a degree of independence analogous to the county's palatinate status. In 1093 a church of secular canons which had been founded in Chester to house the relics of St Werburgh was re-established by the 2nd earl of Chester, Hugh Lupus, as a Benedictine abbey, possibly to rival St John's which represented the power of the bishop. This abbey, dissolved on 20 January 1539/40, was reopened as the cathedral of the new see of Chester in August 1541.[37]

The creation of the diocese also brought together the archdeaconries of Chester and Richmond in Yorkshire, a sprawling and unwieldy area. Chester was situated inconveniently on the southwest of the diocese. Many of the people in Lancashire remained firmly loyal to Catholicism after the Reformation. Cheshire, despite pockets of recusancy, showed less fervent adherence but fell under the suspicion attaching to Lancashire.[38] Puritanism was strong in the area of the former archdeaconry of Chester. Moreover, although Elizabeth's first bishop, William Downham, who held the see from 1561 until 1577, was perceived to be lax in dealing with the problem of recusancy in the diocese, subsequent bishops tended to favour the appointment of clerics of strongly Puritan inclinations to livings.[39] Although a minority these Puritan clerics were well-educated, university men, who met together at monthly preaching exercises in Chester, Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Northwich and, by preaching and example, won the support of influential gentry such as John Bruen, whose crusade to suppress the Tarvin wakes is included here. In a diocese where levels of clerical education were low, such men were a powerful group who presented the bishops with a different set of problems, by refusing to adopt the vestments and ceremonies prescribed by the Church. It is in this context that men such as Christopher Goodman, William Hinde, and Edward Burghall ministered and campaigned, often successfully, for the suppression of drama, minstrelsy, and dancing. Henry Hardware II, who reformed Chester's Midsummer Show briefly during his mayoralty in 1599–60, typifies the kind of local censorship that was exerted by the gentry supporters of Puritanism in the county.[40]

Cheshire was a county of large parishes serving numerous scattered villages. Parish life was undoubtedly disrupted by the harrying of the north, and only twenty-eight villages had a priest or church in 1086 according to the Domesday Survey, excluding Chester which had three churches besides St John's and St Werburgh's Abbey. As might be expected the parishes become larger the further east in the county one travels.[41]

Cheshire was not rich in religious houses. Several small foundations survived to the Dissolution – Birkenhead Priory (Benedictine), Combermere Abbey (Cistercian), and Norton Abbey (Augustinian Canons). In Chester the Benedictine nuns had a priory from the mid-twelfth century and Franciscan, Dominican, and Carmelite friars had houses from the thirteenth century. But a Cistercian house built on marshy ground near the river at Stanlow, founded in the 1170s, was abandoned in 1296 after a series of floods, and the monks moved to Whalley in Lancashire. A mid-twelfth-century Cistercian foundation at Poulton moved into Staffordshire, to Dieulacres, in 1214 to avoid the threat of Welsh raids. And the houses of the Augustinian Canons at Mobberley, founded in the thirteenth century, and of the Premonstratensians at Warburton, founded *c* 1190 as a cell of Cockersand Abbey in Lancashire, failed within a few years of their foundations.[42]

There were only two houses of major importance in the county, the Benedictine abbey of St Werburgh in Chester and the Cistercian abbey of Vale Royal in Delamere. Both were founded by earls of Chester and endowed with lands which included the earls' possessions within the county. St Werburgh's, founded in 1093, housed the relics and girdle of St Werburgh, a Mercian princess whose remains had been removed from Hanley to protect them from the Danes. For several generations the abbey served as a sepulchre for the earls and barons, who transferred parochial tithes to the foundation. As a major landowner in the county the abbey played a leading role in the development of its lands around Chester and the mosslands of the Dee during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The abbot was a powerful figure in Chester, with rights over the Midsummer fair which continued until the Great Charter of 1506.[43] The abbey's most famous monk was Ranulf Higden, who entered in 1299, died in 1364, and was the author of the universal Latin chronicle, *Polychronicon*. Higden was identified as the author of Chester's Whitsun Plays in the post-Reformation Banns, though a proclamation of 1531–2 attributed the authorship to Henry Francis, another monk of the abbey. Abbey Gate was the first station for the performance of the plays and, according to David Rogers, was where the monks and clergy watched the plays (but see below, p xlii).

Vale Royal was founded by Earl Edward (later Edward I) in fulfilment of a vow he had made when threatened with shipwreck in 1263–4. The site was inspected in 1266. The buildings were planned on a large scale with lavish endowments, but recurrent financial difficulties meant that the original grand plan was never accomplished. Vale Royal remained however the stopping place of important visitors to the county, usually en route to Chester, including monarchs. The abbey was handed over to the king's commissioners on 7 September 1538 and the site sold to the head of the commission, Thomas Holcroft, who demolished the buildings, incorporating some parts into the house that he built for himself on the site.[44]

A different fate awaited St Werburgh's Abbey. On 20 January 1539/40 the abbey closed; on

26 July 1541 Henry VIII sealed the letters patent that reconstituted the abbey as the cathedral of Christ and the Blessed Mary. Though initially within the province of Canterbury the diocese was placed under that of York in 1542. The newly created cathedral was under-endowed and the situation became worse when most of the lands still remaining to it were ceded to Sir Richard Cotton in 1553. In consequence there were constant problems of maintaining the fabric throughout our period.[45] The monastic library was in some unknown way dispersed. The lax or ambivalent attitude towards recusancy is reflected in attitudes towards the Whitsun Plays. The cathedral accounts show that a barrel of beer was provided for the players at the controversial performance of the Whitsun Plays in 1572, and Christopher Goodman's correspondence suggests that the bishop was reluctant to engage in debate with the mayor about the performances.

There is little evidence of drama or related ceremonial centred upon ecclesiastical buildings. The few examples evidenced relate to the churches and abbey in Chester and have been noted below (see Drama, Music, and Popular Customs). The cathedral contributed to the musical culture of the city. The post of cathedral organist was held by a number of men who went on to become distinguished, and the choristers were enlisted with their master to perform in the Whitsun Plays. We owe the 1607 copy of the plays to James Miller who was precentor at the cathedral.[46]

The monasteries played a major part in the development of agriculture in the county and the release of their lands at the Dissolution provided the opportunity for the gentry families to enlarge their estates.

Schools

The later sixteenth century saw the foundation of a number of grammar schools in Cheshire. Their benefactors and supporters commented on the general lack of schools in their towns, reflecting a perceived need to provide education for children, particularly in the expanding boroughs.

Some thirteen grammar schools were endowed in the county during our period.[47] The pattern was set by the foundation of the King's School, attached to the cathedral in Chester at the command of Henry VIII in 1541. Its scholars performed a comedy by Terence for the visit of Lord Derby and his son to Chester in 1577, and its masters were on occasion commissioned to write for triumphs performed on the Roodee (see pp 112, 181). The most significant schools for our purposes are those at Chester, Congleton, Macclesfield, Stockport, and Witton near Northwich, whose foundations are described under the accounts of towns and boroughs below. In some few cases, as with Chester and Witton, it can be established that schools introduced new activities into the drama and customs of their communities, and there can be little doubt that in a more general way they exerted a formative influence on the tastes and expectations of the gentry families educated within them.[48]

Such schools were also seen as a means of countering potential Roman Catholic proselytizing. Bunbury had a school of some sort by 1573, but in 1594 Thomas Aldersey, a merchant tailor, who had purchased the tithes of Bunbury, used the revenue to endow a preachership and curacy, and founded a grammar school there. A number of recusants had resided in Bunbury and Aldersey, a man of Puritan sympathies, ensured the appointment of a Puritan cleric to the living, Christopher Harvey. He vested control of the living and the school in the London Haberdashers' company, who continued to maintain the Puritan succession in appointments to both. It may be significant that in 1591, three years before Aldersey's foundation, the scribe of the earliest manuscript of Chester's Whitsun Plays, Edward Gregory, described himself as a scholar of Bunbury. Edward Burghall, the Puritan divine whose Providence Improved provides incidental glimpses of bearbaiting in Cheshire, was probably educated at Bunbury and was usher (1622–32) and headmaster (1632–44) at the school.[49]

Towns

The following section describes the governance, economy, and aspects of the culture of the major towns in the county.[50] Descriptions of other towns can be found in the relevant head-notes in The Documents.

CHESTER

Chester was the only town of any size within the county, with an estimated population of over 4,600 at the end of the fourteenth century, 'the nodal point in a commercial network which embraced not only Cheshire and Lancashire but also North Wales and the Welsh Borderlands'.[51] Its geographical situation, on the sandstone ridge that forms the northern bank of the River Dee at a point where the river was still tidal but fordable, made it a major strategic point for the Romans who developed it as their main northwest base for expeditions against the North Wales tribe, the Ordovices. Archaeological evidence indicates occupation of the site even before the arrival of the Romans, and its Roman name, Deva, is a Latinization of the Celtic name for the river on which it stands, 'the holy river'.[52]

The exact date of Roman occupation is not known but in or shortly after AD 74 the Second Legion established a depot at Chester. While the site provided easy land access to North Wales across the coastal plain, the main utility of the fortress was its harbour, on the site of the present Roodee, which provided naval support for land-based campaigns. Over time a larger settlement of local traders grew up around the fortress, attracted by the market the legionaries provided. With the replacement of the Second Legion by the Twentieth, Valeria Victrix, in *c* AD 90, it was decided to rebuild the largely wooden fortress in stone. This rebuilding, which proceeded in two stages (AD 90–122 and AD 197–250), established the basic street-pattern of the city and included a large amphitheatre with potential for large-scale displays. The Romans withdrew their forces from Chester some time during the fourth century AD, though a native population probably continued to occupy the site, which provided them with defence against Irish Sea raiders.

Chester seems to have formed part of the British kingdom of Powys, perhaps its royal seat, at the time of the Anglo-Saxon invasions, and was *c* 600 the site of a synod of the British Church.[53] Beyond that there is no record until 893 when an entry in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle indicates that the invading Norsemen occupied and were besieged in Chester by the English. The record implies that the city was then ruinous though this view is not now generally accepted.

Following the grant of settlement in Wirral to the Norse leader Ingimund and the subsequent Norse attack on Chester (see above), the Chronicle records that in 907 the Mercian queen, Aethelflaed, refortified the city. The site, one of the largest in England, was apparently intended by her as a regional centre. An index of its importance was the existence of a mint, already in existence there in 890. Coins continued to be minted in Chester throughout the medieval period. Under Aethelflaed the relics of St Werburgh were moved to a minster in the town, with ceremonies imaginatively described in the sixteenth century by the monk Henry Bradshaw. By the latter years of the tenth century Chester was the site of the shire court. A significant Hiberno-Norse community was by then living in the south of the city and the port had a thriving trade with Dublin. It was here that, after his coronation in 973, Edgar received the homage of rulers from Scotland and Wales who, it is said, rowed him down the Dee from the palace at Farndon to Chester. A major factor in the importance of the town was the influence of the local Mercian ealdormen who held their Cheshire lands from the king and occupied a position similar to that of the later Norman earls. Their authority was exercised by the earl's reeve.[54]

In 1066 the town had 487 houses, suggesting a population of 2,000–3,000, but the participation of Cestrians in the rising of 1069–70 against William I prompted the king to occupy Chester and build a castle there. The number of houses recorded at 1086 had fallen to 282, a measure of both the physical destruction attendant on the construction of the castle and the wider depopulation and impoverishment of the county. At the same time the construction of the castle and the transfer of the see of Coventry and Lichfield to St John's Church in the town indicate the continuing administrative importance of post-Conquest Chester. The bishop owned considerable property in the town, and although the see had returned to Coventry by 1100 he stayed in St John's precinct on his visits and retained considerable interests in the town. As noted above the earl also founded St Werburgh's Abbey which served as the burial place of the earls and also, to the end of the twelfth century, their barons. As the seat of the earls the town housed the large number of servants necessary to the administration of the shire, aiding its development and prosperity.[55]

Abbot, bishop, and earl represented the pillars of the town's medieval administration. The great stone buildings of the castle, St John's, and St Werburgh's emblematized their power. But the town's walled circuit, depicted on the Gough map, also demarcated Chester from the surrounding rural landscape. The buildings of the earl's servants around the castle and the construction and embellishment of the houses of the growing number of burgesses in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries mark the increasing prosperity of the town. A further indicator is the nine parish churches that existed by 1300. Foremost among them was St Mary's, built in the mid-twelfth century for the earl and his servants. The route of the Corpus Christi procession, to which a civic play was attached, from St Mary's to St John's thus gained additional secular relevance in linking the loci of power of earl and bishop. After the Reformation, while the abbey acquired a new role as cathedral, the church of St John suffered from the withdrawal of endowments and the fabric could no longer be maintained. Only the Norman nave remains in use; beyond, the ruins of the former east end and great tower today give only a hint of the splendid building of former days.

From the thirteenth century Chester began to evolve a system of civic government which was authoritatively confirmed in the charter of 1506 granted by Henry VII by which the town became a corporate county, making it in effect administratively independent of central government. By the charter the town was governed by an assembly which consisted of twenty-four aldermen and forty councilmen, elected by the freemen of the town, though the freemen's right of election was eroded during the century. The aldermen elected a mayor annually, and two sheriffs – the king's sheriff and the city's sheriff – were elected respectively by the aldermen and by the whole assembly. Much of what was prescribed reflected the situation which had evolved over the previous centuries, though dating is inevitably approximate.[56]

Foremost among the offices was that of mayor. The first recorded holder of the office, *c* 1240, was William the Clerk although a tradition arose, enshrined in the mayoral list in the town's first assembly book, that the first mayor had been Sir John Arneway in the fourteenth century; this tradition was disproved by the revised mayoral listing produced by the Chester antiquarian William Aldersey in 1594, which showed Sir Walter Lynnett as the town's first mayor (see pp cvii–cviii). Arneway is credited in the Proclamation and Banns to the Whitsun Plays as the mayor who first caused the plays to be performed. The office predicates the existence of a recognized body of civic governance drawn from the burgesses. Though in the thirteenth century an individual might hold the office for a sequence of years, over time the mayor was appointed annually. From the names of office holders administrative power within the town can be seen to have resided throughout our period within a small, close circle of families.[57]

The office of sheriff appears to antedate that of mayor. It was evolving *c* 1070 and would replace the earlier earl's reeve. The sheriff had been the earl's principal representative in the town. The office was divided *c* 1220–30, perhaps the point at which it fell to the election of the citizens. The sheriffs presided over the portmote court, the most important court of the town, which dealt with civil matters and petty crime. From the mid-thirteenth century sheriffs also held a court at the Pentice, the centre of civic government, which dealt primarily with trading regulations; by the early fourteenth century the mayor replaced the sheriffs as its president. Cases of serious crime were heard at the crownmote in the town, also in existence by the thirteenth century. To these were added by the 1506 charter a county court and quarter sessions, the latter presided over by the mayor and senior aldermen.[58]

The sheriffs were responsible, with the abbot's servants, for enforcing the trading regulations at the St Werburgh's fair. The town had two annual fairs: the St Werburgh's fair held over three days around 21 June, the translation of St Werburgh, and the Michaelmas fair. By the early thirteenth century the former was associated with the feast of St John the Baptist and lasted for a week. Known then as the Midsummer fair the occasion was associated with the Midsummer Watch or Show held on the eve of St John, reputedly begun in the mayoralty of Richard Goodman (1498–9), and the licensing of minstrels by the Dutton family (see pp 1000–1, endnote to BL: Harley MS 2057 f 26v). The 1506 charter transferred control of the Midsummer fair from the abbey to the city.

The assembly has its origins in a definable administrative body known as the twenty-four, consisting of present and past office holders, which existed by the end of the fourteenth century. The process of maintaining civic records of accounts and decisions seems to date from around that time, and reference is made to the assembly. Around the mid-fifteenth century a further body, the forty-eight, was added to the assembly. The 1506 charter merely tightened control on the numbers in the constituent bodies which, despite their names, often varied considerably. A key figure in both the ordering of Chester's administration and the town's social legislation was the reforming mayor Henry Gee, in his mayoralties of 1533–4 and 1539–40. It was he who, in 1533–4, began the city's assembly books, the full record of the assembly's decisions. The assembly was served by the clerk of the Pentice, usually a lawyer, appointed by the recorder and sheriffs; the clerk in 1531–2, William Newhall, devised the proclamation for the Whitsun Plays which names Henry Francis as their author (see pp 71–2).

At the local level the town was divided into wards, fifteen in all by the 1530s, each with one or two constables and associated with an alderman. Twelve were within the walls. They provide the framework of the treasurers' accounts of rentals and the constables' returns provide evidence of minor local misdemeanours.

Within the city the merchants and increasing numbers of craftsmen organized themselves into companies to defend their commercial rights and support their members. By the mid-fifteenth century there were more than twenty such organizations. During this period, too, individual craft guilds emerged. Among their civic responsibilities was the provision of lights for the Corpus Christi procession. They also contributed plays on that occasion – the first reference to such a play is in 1422 (see pp 47–8). That play was the predecessor of the town's sixteenth-century Whitsun Plays, first mentioned in 1521, to which the companies contributed their individual pageants. The document indicates that the companies were answerable to the mayor for the provision of their plays, suggesting that the occasion manifested mayoral authority over the companies. The companies were also required to participate in and provide shows for the Midsummer Show which was on occasion substituted for, and after 1575 replaced, the plays.

The rise of the companies reflects the growing prosperity of Chester in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries as a centre of government and as the head port of the northwest, trading along the Irish Sea and also with France and Spain, but the Dee had been silting over the centuries. By the late fifteenth century the former Roman harbour had become a flat, open piece of land owned by the city known as the Roodee, or 'island of the cross,' on which the Shrovetide races and various spectacular triumphs were staged in the sixteenth century. The extent to which the silting affected the prosperity within the town from the later fifteenth century has been much debated since it was on occasion successfully used in arguments to reduce the fee-farm. Geoffrey W. Place suggests that 'the Dee always was a shallow and unpredictable river, which became of less value to the Chester economy with the secular increase in the size of ships; and that the constantly shifting sands of Dee altered the suitability of different anchorages from time to time.'[59] In our period it remained the major port of embarkation for Ireland and trade with France and Spain.

Within the city from the 1530s the leatherworkers, who constituted the oldest organized group, had become the largest group of craftsmen, ousting the formerly pre-eminent textile workers. The victualling trades, necessary to the expanding population, constituted a third major group of traders, with the merchants and traders, metal workers, and building workers constituting smaller groupings within a diverse citizenry.[60] The population increased during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries up to the time of the Civil War, despite visitations of plague.[61]

In addition to the craft companies there were a number of religious guilds attached to Chester churches. These included the confraternities of St Anne at St John's; St George at St Peter's; and St Ursula at the hospital founded by Roger Smith.[62] The 'Good Wives of the Town,' who sponsored the play of the 'Assumption of the Virgin' in the Whitsun Plays, probably represent one such confraternity. The play, which was also performed for the visit of Prince Arthur to Chester in 1498–9, is the only one for which a group other than a craft or trade company was responsible. The text is no longer extant, presumably removed after the Reformation, but perhaps it reflected a wider veneration of the Virgin Mary in the town.

Various demarcation and other tensions inevitably arose among the city companies, but tensions also resulted from the religious changes of the sixteenth century. The presence in the town of a number of Puritan ministers together with citizens of similar persuasion by the 1570s meant that the productions of the Whitsun Plays in 1572 and 1575 became the focus of dispute between the mayors of those years and the clergy who saw in the plays an occasion for rallying dissident papists. If Christopher Goodman, a determined minister returned from Genevan exile, is to be believed, there had been contention when the plays had been produced in the past though some allowance must be made for special pleading. Goodman's letters to the archbishop of York and the earl of Leicester raise the question of the authority of the state and the autonomy of the city. Inevitably the state, in the form of the privy council, exerted its authority and 1575 saw the final performance of the plays. But the confrontation further confirmed what was evident by the later sixteenth century – that the administrative independence granted by palatinate status had yielded to Tudor centralism.

CONGLETON

Congleton is situated in a valley on the banks of the Dane, between the Macclesfield hills and the flat district of Northwich hundred. It was originally made a dependency of the barony of Bigod, and from thence passed to the barons of Halton. In 1272 Henry de Lacy converted the vill of Congleton into a free borough. It had a weekly market and two fairs, at the feasts of Holy Trinity and of St Martin the bishop; further charters were granted or confirmed by Henry VIII, Philip and Mary, Elizabeth I, and James I. It was administered by a mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, and two of the aldermen were also magistrates within the borough. Clark and Hosking estimate that by 1563 Astbury parish, which includes Congleton, had a population of around 4,400.[63] On 12 January 1624/5 James I appointed Sir Thomas Savage high steward for life, with his son John to follow him.[64]

MACCLESFIELD

Situated on the edge of the Pennine moorlands in the east of the county, Macclesfield was the head town of the hundred and manor of Macclesfield and centre of administration for the forest of Macclesfield. The area had evidently flourished in the Anglo-Saxon period, but after the harrying of the north the land was left uncultivated and the population almost exterminated (see p xiv). The period *c* 1183–1247/8 was one of recovery with a growing population and the development of new land. It has been estimated that the town may have contained some 350 to 400 families in the later fourteenth century, dropping to about 300 by the end of the century. Clark and Hosking estimate the parish population in 1563 as 2,310.[65]

After the Norman Conquest it passed to the earl of Chester and, some time before 1233, Earl Ranulph de Blundeville (1181–1232) granted 120 men of Macclesfield freedom from servile dues. Although the original record of the grant is no longer extant, it seems that by it Macclesfield was made a free borough. Certainly by the earliest charter that we now have, of 29 May 1261, which survives only in later copies, the town was a free borough with its own merchant guild. Although the charter conferred no right to form a corporation or elect a mayor, by the later fourteenth century the office of what was effectively a mayor was well established and deputies appointed. A new charter, granted in 1595 at the request of the burgesses, conclusively established a corporation of a mayor, two aldermen, twenty-four 'capital burgesses,' a high steward, one or more men learned in law, and a serjeant at mace. The first high steward was Sir John Savage (1524–97) and the Savage family exerted strong influence within the town.

Macclesfield was a significant administrative centre. Its internal legal affairs were conducted through its portmote and mayor's courts, but it was also the meeting place of the hundred court of Macclesfield and the halmote or manor court. As elsewhere the portmote became dominated by a small local elite, but the affairs of the borough were heavily under the influence of the steward of the forest, granted by Richard III to Thomas Stanley, and confirmed as a hereditary position to the Stanley family, earls of Derby, by Henry VII. The town had a market and three fairs – in May, June, and October.[66] It had a range of local trades but no major industry.[67]

Eleanor of Castile, wife of Edward I, built a chapel there in 1278 during Edward's tenure of the earldom. Thomas Savage, the archbishop of York, added a chantry chapel to the church in 1501–7, which saw the elaborate funeral processions of members of that family. The Grammar School was founded in 1502 under the will of Sir John Percival, a native of the area, who had been lord mayor of London, although it seems to have closed on the death of its first master, William Bridges, who died in 1538. It was refounded in 1552 by Edward VI. The schoolhouse stood close to the church and the school governors, who had by the terms of foundation to be residents of Macclesfield or the parish of Prestbury, were drawn from the leading families in the region.[68] Ormerod notes that the town's government was weakened by the loss of its mayor, Christopher Savage, and a number of principal citizens at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Macclesfield also suffered badly in the plague of 1603 although it was less devastated by the Civil War than other Cheshire towns.[69]

NANTWICH AND THE WICHES OF CHESHIRE

Old English 'wic' can often be translated as 'dairy farm,' though it seems to refer to any building used for a specific purpose other than arable farming. Although the meaning 'dairy farm' is found in Cheshire, '-wich' has the technical sense of 'building used for the production of salt,' the only mineral found in abundance in the county. It is the suffix of the so-called three 'Wiches' of Cheshire, the towns of Middlewich, Nantwich, and Northwich. The salt industry certainly existed in the Roman period and was probably pre-Roman, and from the evidence of Domesday Survey was controlled in the late Anglo-Saxon period centrally by the earl, Edwin, and the king. The Domesday entries indicate wagons and packhorses transporting the salt from the Wiches and paying custom dues to the king and earl. And in all the charters exempting burgesses of other Cheshire towns from tolls at markets and fairs, the toll from salt is always reserved.[70]

Northwich, known to the Romans as Condate, stands at the confluence of the rivers Dane and Weaver, an important bridging point; its bridge seems to have been in frequent need of maintenance and repair. It was a royal vill, remaining in the possession of the earls of Chester until the late sixteenth century, and was never granted a charter. Without this autonomy drama and ceremonial did not flourish. In nearby Witton John Deane, prebendary of Lincoln and rector of St Bartholomew the Great near Smithfield, London, founded a grammar school in 1557.[71]

Middlewich, to judge from its Roman name Salinae, was the centre of salt production in the Roman period and was at that time the largest settlement outside Chester. It stood at the intersection of the Roman roads from Whitchurch, Wilderspool, and Chesterton and a minor route from Chester to Buxton.[72] It lies near the confluence of the Rivers Dane and Croco. Its development was not dissimilar to that of Northwich, since it too came into the possession of the earls of Chester and as a royal vill had little independence. It had a market from 1260 and a charter probably from before 1288; references for burgesses appear in the 1280s. But the burgesses exerted little control over the industry, which remained in the hands of religious houses, including the abbey of Vale Royal, and the local aristocracy.[73]

Middlewich seems to have adapted to the Reformation without marked difficulty. Ormerod's list of vicars mentions only five incumbents during our period, with no change from 1525 to 1562. The vicar in 1604, Mr Wattes, is mentioned in the will of Thomas Venables as a preacher, which may indicate Puritan leanings.[74]

Nantwich, however, grew in importance during our period, as its name, 'the named or famous wich,' suggests. King's *Vale-Royall* describes it as second only to Chester in importance.[75] Situated on the Weaver at the southeast of the Cheshire plain, it developed later than the other Wiches, probably during the tenth century, as a salt-production area attached to the estate of Acton, in whose parish it remained for our period. A major factor in its rise above the other Wiches was the local availability of comparatively cheap wood for fuel in the brine process, though as the seventeenth century progressed the adoption of coal from the mines of east Cheshire and Staffordshire, from which the town was somewhat remote, made Nantwich salt uncompetitively expensive and the industry declined.[76] Its position on the main London to Chester road made it an obvious location for a market, and in 1283 Edward I granted the townspeople the right to hold a three-day fair on St Bartholomew's Day. By the end of the fourteenth century it had a weekly cattle market. Despite being largely destroyed by fire in 1438, Nantwich prospered. Clark and Hosking estimate the population of Nantwich parish in 1563 as 2,220. As the head town of the hundred, a Norman barony, and one of the towns outside Chester where the quarter sessions were held from 1535, it was by 1583 considered the second town in the county. In 1583 the town was again destroyed by fire; the town's bears, released by their bearward to escape the flames, added to the confusion in the streets (see p 734). The destruction was so great that it led to a national appeal for funds by Queen Elizabeth. The town was again rebuilt on its former street pattern.[77]

The 1st earl of Chester granted the barony of Nantwich to William Malbank, who built a castle there, and the town was for long known as Wich Malbank. With the death of the last male Malbank *c* 1160–70 the barony was subdivided among his three daughters and the holding became more widely dispersed thereafter. The lack of a single controlling lord had serious consequences for the town's independence and also for its prosperity. Families from outside took the profits from trade. The town never gained a charter but was governed by a bailiff who controlled the manorial officers.[78]

St Mary's Church at Nantwich, always a chapel of Acton, was until the Dissolution the possession of Combermere Abbey. It was rebuilt from the later fourteenth century and is one of the most magnificent of the county's churches, as well as an index of the town's prosperity and importance. A number of religious guilds were attached to the church – six chantry priests were supported by them in 1461 – but apart from vague references no records of their activities survive.[79] After the suppression of the guilds the guildhall in the churchyard was purchased to house a grammar school. Nantwich Grammar School was founded by John and Thomas Thrush of London, wool-packers, between 1548 and 1572.[80]

Nantwich was occupied alternately by parliamentary and royalist forces during the Civil War, and the parliamentary garrison there was besieged by the royalists in 1642.

STOCKPORT

Stockport now merges into the suburbs of Manchester but was once a thriving market town at the focus of four Roman routes – to Buxton, Castle Shaw, Manchester, and Melandra Castle. From the late twelfth century the vill was held by the Stockport family, and in the early thirteenth century Robert de Stokeport granted the town a charter making it a free borough but with no reference to a mayor or civic officials. Instead a chief officer was to be chosen; subsequent records refer to him as 'mayor' but in fact the town never became an incorporated borough. In 1260 it was granted a Friday market and an annual fair.[81] The population of the parish in 1563 is estimated as 1,950.[82]

Stockport Grammar School was founded in 1488 by the will of Sir Edmund Shaa, citizen and goldsmith of London and a former lord mayor of London, who left money to provide two priests. One, to be 'a discrete man, and conning in Gramer, and be able of connyng to teche Gramer,' was to serve at one of the altars in Stockport Church and to 'keep a Gramer School contynually in the said Town of Stopforde, as long as he shall comntynewe there in the aid service.' The schoolhouse was in the churchyard. The boys were to visit the grave of Shaa's parents in the church on Wednesdays and Fridays to recite 'De Profundis' and pray for their souls.[83]

Families

For reasons discussed above (p xiv) Cheshire was not a county of large seignorial estates but rather of gentry families living on their own manors, who tended to marry into other gentry families in Cheshire or the neighbouring counties. Relevant information about the families concerned is given in either the Endnotes or the relevant headnotes in The Documents, since most were minor figures who appear as owners or users of musical instruments. Here we note only the major gentry families of the county whose connections with drama, ceremonial, and minstrelsy seem more widely significant.

BRUEN OF STAPLEFORD

Stapleford is not mentioned in Domesday Survey. The Bruen family first emerge in the thirteenth century with Robert le Brun, whose name appears on a deed of 1230; a grant of lands referring to Bruen Stapleford from the same period links the family to the place. The most famous member of this family was John Bruen of Bruen Stapleford (1560–1625/6), the second son and heir by survivorship of John Bruen of Bruen Stapleford. He had his early education at Dutton Hall, being connected through his mother's family to the Duttons of Dutton. He then went to Alban Hall, Oxford, as a commoner from 1577–80. He was noted for his puritanical piety and 'religious economy' and two of his three wives were from noted Puritan families. On his return to Stapleford he married Elizabeth Hardware (d. January 1595/6), daughter of Henry Hardware of Chester. By 1601 he had married his second wife, Ann Foxe (daughter of John Foxe, the martyrologist), who died ten years later. Little is known of his third wife, Margaret. John himself died in 1625.

John Bruen was memorialized in a biography written by the Puritan rector of Bunbury, William Hinde, from which most of our entries concerning the family are taken. John evidently turned to Puritanism shortly after succeeding to his estate. He set up a chapel and a pulpit in his own house. He purged the family chapel in St Andrew's, Tarvin, and subsequently the whole church of its stained glass and brought in 'true' ministers (ie, those of Puritan persuasion) to preach. He suppressed the revels at Tarvin's St Andrew's Day fair and persuaded the Duttons to change the minstrel licences to ban playing on the Sabbath. His reputation for personal piety and benevolence was so great that a number of the major county families, such as the Duttons, Egertons, and Wilbrahams, sent children to be brought up in his household. Among those he influenced was Henry Hardware II, who, when mayor of Chester in 1599–1600, put down or reformed a number of the city's traditions. Bruen left many volumes of manuscripts which he asked his family to read over, if only once in their lifetimes.[84]

DUTTON OF DUTTON

The Dutton family had the authority to license minstrels within the county of Cheshire. A late account of the ceremony by Sir Peter Leycester, together with the story of how the family received the privilege, is included in the present volumes. It was no empty privilege since the county's minstrels, holding a licence from the minstrels' court, were exempted from the terms of the Elizabethan vagabondage acts because the court had its own system of licensing.

The manor of Dutton was shared at the time of the Domesday Survey by three holders – William Fitznigel, Osbern, and Odard or Hudard. The lands passed to Odard's son Hugh, and thence to his son Hugh, who held the lands from the baron of Halton. It was Roger de Lacy, baron of Halton and constable of Chester, who was traditionally responsible for rescuing the earl of Chester from the Welsh and who received in return the privilege of licensing minstrels and prostitutes in the county of Cheshire. Roger in turn devolved the privilege upon his tenant, the fifth holder of Dutton, Hugh, and the privilege remained in the family thereafter. The residence of the Duttons, Dutton Hall, now demolished, was built in 1542. The family continued to be influential in the county throughout our period.[85]

LEGH OF LYME

The estate of Lyme Hanley was granted to Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Danyers, and her third husband, Piers/Peter Legh (*c* 1360–99), in fulfilment of a grant made to her father for service rendered to Richard II's father, the Black Prince.[86] Piers found favour with Richard II, who granted the family a coat of arms in 1397, but he paid for that favour with his life; he was executed by Henry IV. A succession of Leghs, all named Peter or Piers, held the estate. But the Legh family also had extensive holdings in south Lancashire through the marriage of Piers' son Peter to the heiress of Sir Gilbert Haydock. Her tombstone at Sefton, Lancashire, refers to property in Bold, Bradley, Burtonwood, Golborne, Great Sankey, Haydock, Lawton, Newton, Walton le Dale, and Warrington.[87] The family chapel and monuments were not in Cheshire but in the church of Winwick, near Wigan, in Lancashire. Subsequent advantageous marriages brought further wealth to the family. In the mid-sixteenth century Lyme Hall, the family's principal residence, stood in parkland at Disley in east Cheshire. The hall is first mentioned in 1465 in a description by Sir Peter Legh III (1415–78). Sir Peter Legh VII (1514–89) rebuilt the house in the reign of Elizabeth.

The Leghs were among the wealthiest and most influential of the gentry families of Cheshire. Our records relate primarily to the grandson of the builder of Lyme, Sir Peter Legh IX (*c* 1563–1637), who succeeded to the estate because the direct heir, the son of Sir Peter the builder, predeceased his father. He represented Wigan as MP (1586, 1589), and later also Cheshire (1601); he was sheriff of Cheshire in 1594–5 and captain of the Isle of Man around 1600. He was twice married: to Margaret Gerard (d. 1603) and, in 1604, to Dorothy Egerton, daughter of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, who had her own house and estate at Worsley near Manchester in Lancashire. Ormerod wrote of him: 'In few families have been left so many evidences of the courtly tastes and acquirements of so remote an ancestor,' tastes which Peter Legh IX believed had been fostered by his grandfather. The musician Henry Lawes, the friend of Milton, corresponded with him and Francis Pilkington, composer and organist at Chester Cathedral, dedicated a book of madrigals to him in 1624.[88]

Drama, Music, and Popular Customs

Civic Drama

CHESTER'S BIBLICAL PLAYS

This section is concerned with the evidence for the performance of the plays. The interpretation of the evidence for the history and development of the cycle is discussed in Appendix 5.

Despite the tradition, promoted by Chester antiquarians, that the city's civic plays began in the early fourteenth century, we have no reference to a civic play before 1422 when one play was being performed on Corpus Christi Day, and no reference to the Whitsun Plays before *c* 1520–1 (see pp 68–9).[1] We can be sure that a play was being performed by 1422 on Corpus Christi Day because there was a dispute in that year between the Bowyers and Ironmongers over their responsibilities for the 'Scourging' and 'Crucifixion' (see pp 47–8). There are few records of Chester's Corpus Christi Play after 1422 (see p 49, for instance). The references to an 'int*er*lud*um*' that was evidently the responsibility of the Weavers' company in 1422–3 and to the case of the baker Thomas Butler, in 1448, who sued his company for payment due to him for playing the devil, seem likely to refer to the play but raise problems of interpretation (see pp 48, 52 and endnotes). The fifteenth-century records suggest that the Corpus Christi Play, though the responsibility of the guilds, was significantly different from the later Whitsun Plays, for it was performed on one day and probably in one place – St John's churchyard, outside the east wall of the city – at the conclusion of the procession from St Mary on the Hill, located near the castle in the southwest corner of the city. St Mary was the parish church of the earl of Chester and his servants, and St John's the church associated with the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield (see above, p xx).

The first performance site of the later Whitsun Play was the gate of St Werburgh's Abbey, later the cathedral, the seat of the abbot and subsequently of the bishop of Chester (see Figure 2a). The carriages next moved on to the Pentice, at St Peter's Church, the locus of the mayor and civic government, and thence through the streets (see Figure 1). At some time, possibly 1531–2, the event was divided into three sections and performed over three days at Whitsun, a change perhaps indicated by the use of the plural form 'Whitsun Plays' instead of the singular form used in all references to the Corpus Christi Play and the first reference to the Whitsun Play. The final performance of the plays was at Midsummer 1575.

It is convenient to divide our consideration of the plays into three sections. First there is the contemporary record of their performance in civic and guild documents. This can then be supplemented by the evidence for the performances in the 1570s provided by the correspondence of Christopher Goodman, and the description of performance given in David Rogers' 'Breuary or some fewe Collectiones of the Cittie of Chester' (hereafter 'Breviary').

Civic and Guild Documents

The civic records and the twelve guild accounts of expenditure provide a fairly detailed picture of the sequence of events leading up to the performance of the Whitsun Plays.[2] First a decision had to be made by the mayor with the agreement of the city council that there would be a performance of the plays. The city had a register of the plays called the 'Reginall,' and the guilds apparently held copies of their own texts, as is attested by references in the guild accounts to payments for writing their texts and the individual parts. From the records, various comments, and the extant play texts it is clear that the text was revised over time. Probably because of special circumstances for the final performance in 1575 the mayor was expressly instructed by the city council to emend the text as necessary (see p 159), but we have no evidence to suggest that this was the usual practice. A note accompanying the play list and Early Banns in BL: Harley MS 2150 states that the mayor, on the advice of the city council, had the right to change the assignment of any play to a particular guild (see p 81). However we have no evidence that the mayor and council ever reassigned plays in this way; the same guild is associated with the same play in both the Early and the Late Banns and in other documents, and guild charters sometimes confirm the title of the play for which the guild has continuing responsibility.

When the decision for performance was favourable the companies had to participate in the riding/reading of the Banns which heralded a performance. The confusion between 'reading' and 'riding,' pointed out by Salter, can be seen in two versions of Rogers' Breviary.[3] CCALS: ZCX 3 states: 'there was a man w*hi*ch did Ride as I take it vpon St Georges daye throughe the Cittie and there published the tyme and matter of the playes in breeife.'

But BL: Harley MS 1944 concludes by adding the clause: 'which was called ye readinge of the banes.' The additional phrase is clearly derived from the heading of the Late Banns and is roughly the same as the running title of an introduction to George Bellin's 1600 copy of the plays. Bellin undoubtedly saw the plays; therefore his testimony to the reading of the Banns should be accepted.

In fact the Banns were both read and ridden. The 1554 Smiths' accounts include the phrase 'for ridinge the banes xiij d. the Citty Crier ridd,'[4] and in 1561, 'Cost vs the rydinge the banes our horses & ourselues of the w*hi*ch symyon was one ij s' (see pp 95, 106; see also under 1568 and 1572, pp 125, 141–2). In 1567 the payment is separately itemized and the 1572 accounts also indicate that the crier was paid one penny for his services (see pp 118, 142). The Cordwainers' and the Painters' accounts show similar disbursements: one penny for the crier and quite a bit more for horsebread, gloves, and other expenses attendant upon the companies' riding the Banns. Furthermore that the crier must have ridden the Banns as well as read them is implied by items from the Painters' accounts (see pp 122, 139, 166). The accounts suggest that the city crier was paid one penny by each company for reading the Banns and presumably for riding with them. The whole action of reading and riding the Banns is included in the expression 'riding the Banns.' In fact the Early Banns suggest this dual nature (see p 81).

David Rogers' account is incomplete but not inaccurate; one man did read the Banns at the same time that the companies rode them. Because the guilds participated in the Midsummer Show whenever the Whitsun Plays were not performed, they could anticipate the demand for costumes and horses for the character who rode with them and be ready to ride in procession on St George's Day. If the route for the Banns was the same as that for the Midsummer Show, the companies assembled at the Barres outside Eastgate, where the crier read the Banns and called forth the guilds. The route then took them past the prisons at Northgate and at the castle, where they contributed money to the prisoners. The liberties of the city extended beyond the walls but, by passing through the major streets and by coming to each of the gates, the guildsmen would confirm the city's boundaries and freedoms.

This ceremonial function concluded, the companies could begin to prepare their plays by copying and handing out parts ('parcells'), holding trials for roles, and rehearsing either indoors or at outdoor locations open to the public (see below, pp liv, lvi).

The actors who can be identified were not professionals, but freemen and members of the guilds; for example, of the four actors in the 1572 Bowyers' account, Hugh Gillam and Richard Cally appear in the freemen's rolls; John Stynson was probably the Bowyers' alderman, for it was to his house that they retired each Midsummer Eve (see pp 138, 148). Thomas Marser is unknown but in 1575 the Bowyers desired his performance enough to spend two pence 'apon Thomas marser to get him to pleay' (see p 163). Should an actor forget his lines he could be prompted by the bearer of the 'Regenall.'

The plays were performed on movable stages, or 'carriages' – specially constructed vehicles that, after each performance, were dismantled and stored in carriage-houses which the guilds owned or rented (see below, pp xlii, xlvi–xlviii). As part of the preparation for the plays the guilds had to take their carriages out of storage and assemble them. They might require the work of a wright to put the wheels on and to put the pageant on the undercarriage. In addition they might require the services of the Painters and Weavers for decorating the carriage. There is evidence of painted backdrops and the decoration of the pageant as a whole; a locus, however, may have been denoted largely by a single feature. For example the Smiths paid for a 'fane,' perhaps an arched canopy with a top to indicate that the building was a temple rather than a church (see pp 96, 142).

An advantage of the three-day division was that a guild who performed on one of the days could hire out its carriage to guilds who performed on the other two days and so defray the expense of the carriage's assembly and storage. Hence the Vintners, Goldsmiths, and Dyers were able to use the same carriage because they performed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday respectively; their sharing was perhaps facilitated by the fact that each of their plays required a palace set for a central tyrant figure.[5] The Painters (play 7), Bowyers (play 16), and Skinners (play 18), also shared a pageant, but the similarity between set designs is not immediately apparent from the play texts.[6]

Some details in the accounts of expenditure suggest that the carriage was decorated with hangings and that there was a cloth backing. Some carriages may have had more elaborate roofs than others if, as in the Tailors' play, there was an ascension. However not all carriages would have been constructed in the same way; for example the Noah play calls for a unique pageant and both the 'Fall of Lucifer' and the 'Doomsday' pageants seem to have required two-tiered carriages. The stage directions and the accounts demonstrate that the action was not restricted to the pageant wagon. Some plays call for the use of live animals in the playing area and the guild accounts substantiate the practice. For example in 1568 the Painters 'payd for mete for the asse,' 'payd toward*es* the fecchyng of him,' and 'payd for horsse brede to harvyes [one of the shepherds] horse' (see p 123).[7] Some of the animals mentioned in the stage directions were constructed (Balaam's ass, for example), and since the Midsummer Show had camels it is possible that the beasts of the Magi were constructed camels or disguised horses.[8]

On the day of the performance some guilds may have assembled for breakfast and the dressing of their players before they went to the first station at Abbey Gate. They then proceeded to the Pentice at High Cross – the centre of the city where the four streets intersect – and thence into each of the city's streets in turn. We consider the route in more detail in interpreting David Rogers' discussion below. At the end of the performance the guild again assembled for refreshment and the undressing of their players.

The plays, as Rogers notes, drew large crowds. In Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5 he says that though they were a charge upon the citizens, they were also profitable to them, a view which may lie behind the reference in William Newhall's proclamation of 1531–2 to the commonwealth and prosperity of Chester as one of the reasons for the institution of the plays (see pp 71, 580). Their popularity is further confirmed by the case of Blanche Webb of Backford, who came to Chester in 1572 specifically to see them, in the company of her sister (p 137). The benefits would be particularly evident after the abbot's rights to the Midsummer fair had been transferred to the city by the Great Charter of 1506.

The Performances of the 1570s

In the sixteenth century the plays were not performed every year, the city staging instead the Midsummer Show. There also seems to have been opposition to their performance before the events of 1572. Henry Hardware I did not authorize a performance of the plays in either his first mayoral term in 1559–60 or his second in 1575–6. But the opposition apparently did not include everyone in the city as the events of the 1570s indicate.

The last two performances of the Whitsun Plays, in 1572 and 1575, were highly controversial. The Mayors Lists go some way towards reflecting the controversy as do the subsequent events involving the two mayors, John Hankey and Sir John Savage. But we are fortunate also to have the evidence of the 'behind-the-scenes' actions of the Puritan Chester preacher, Christopher Goodman, happily preserved in a book of his letters which includes the correspondence between Goodman and the earl of Huntingdon and archbishop of York concerning the performances of 1572 (see pp 143–6). Goodman had been born in Chester, son of William Goodman, an alderman, *c* 1521. He became an ardent Protestant reformer while at university in Oxford and went into exile in Geneva during Mary's reign. He had only recently returned to Chester when Mayor Hankey began preparations for a production of the plays in 1572.

The first letter, of 10 May 1572, to the earl as president of the Council of the North, sought to prevent the mayor, John Hankey, from putting on the plays for legal reasons – the text had not been perused and approved by an appropriate authority. Much incidental information emerges. The letter's preamble suggests that Goodman was familiar with the tradition that the plays were written by Sir Henry Francis and that he had in mind the proclamation which William Newhall wrote in 1531–2, which he could have heard as a youth in Chester. Hence he sees the plays as the instrument of papal policy, designed to retain Cestrians in ignorance of the truth, and claims that the mayor was acting in collusion with known recusants, to whom the performance would give encouragement (see pp 143–4).

The letterbook also contains a copy of the inhibition sent by the archbishop of York on 15 May to the mayor, requiring the performance to be postponed until the text of the plays has been properly authorized. The letter was also signed by the bishops of Ely and Chester (see p 144). The letter was evidently sent to Goodman for delivery, for on 11 June he wrote to the archbishop that he had personally delivered it to 'my Lord' – presumably the lord lieutenant of Cheshire, the earl of Derby – and the mayor 'upon wenesday last' (see p 144). In his letter Goodman suggests that the mayor believed he had the support of the earl in promoting the performance and raises the issue of who had jurisdiction in the city. The production thus becomes politicized as a touchstone for the tensions within the local society and also between local autonomy and Tudor centralism. Interestingly the dean and chapter of the cathedral do not seem to have shared Goodman's concerns, since they paid for the construction of a mansion over the Abbey Gate and provided beer to the players as they had at the previous performance in 1568 (see pp 121, 137).

Most importantly Goodman encloses with his letter a list of the 'absurdities' in the text which he has taken from the 'old originall.'[9] He claims that the original had been changed at several times but not by authorized persons, and the actors had not always followed the authorized text. Most of the 'absurdities' can be traced in our extant texts, but there are some significant differences. Most notable is the quatrain that Goodman quotes from what he calls play 17, our play 18, 'The Resurrection,' which expressly refers to priestly power and transubstantiation and has been changed rather clumsily in the extant version (see p 148). That and other changes may have been made before the 1572 performance because Goodman – writing to report the disobedience of the mayor and the punitive actions taken against those who, having opposed the production, had refused to pay the levy – says that the mayor will claim that the text had been changed for the performance (see p 146).

The inhibition of 1572 was not a directive to cease entirely performing the plays. The archbishop merely put the performance under an injunction until the appropriate authorities could read and assess the text. In 1575 the mayor, Sir John Savage, with the consent of the city council, prepared to authorize another performance of the plays. There is a copyist's note at the end of the letter of 1572 to say that Goodman wrote in similar vein again in June 1578 (see p 146). There is no evidence of a performance of the plays in that year; the reference might have been to the plays performed for the visit of the earl of Derby and his son in 1578, or possibly the copyist confused 5 and 8 in the date. But the copyist does preserve for us the draft of a letter that Goodman intended to send to the mayor, Sir John Savage, in 1575; he eventually decided against so doing, spoke with the mayor privately, and preached against the plays from the pulpit (see pp 168–70). Whatever the censorship the plays were performed over three-and-a-half days, which may indicate that there was little reduction in the length of the text.

In 1575 plague broke out in the city suburbs but then receded. Possibly the production had been intended for Whitsun in 1575 but was postponed when plague threatened. Then with the threat of plague removed the council was asked to approve a performance at Midsummer. Alternatively a Midsummer production may always have been the original intention. Goodman, however, alludes to the recession of plague in his letter. He urges Savage to reconsider the decision, bearing in mind the grace of God in sparing the city and His future wrath, the heavy financial burden that the citizens would bear, the mourning appropriate to the recent loss of a Chester ship, and the diversion of money from much needed social and moral reform. Perhaps bearing in mind the archbishop's injunction and the probable objections from Goodman and his supporters, the city council required the mayor to take advice on the 'reformac*ion*' of the plays (see pp 159–60). Accordingly, unlike 1572 when the 'whole plays' were performed, in 1575, according to some Mayors Lists, some plays were omitted because they contained 'superstitious' material (see p 161). Something of the uncertainty of what might be permitted may be reflected in the entry in the Smiths' accounts for 1574–5: 'Spent at Tyes to heare 2 plays before the Aldermen to take the best xviij d.' (see p 167), the only record of such a choice being made. While this censorship may have been intended to appease those citizens represented by Goodman, other objectors complained that the plays were in one part of the city only (see p 161).

Goodman's correspondence reflects the division in the city between supporters and opponents of the plays, a factionalism that he claims broke out whenever the plays were performed. It attests the strong Puritan presence in Chester, supported by the centralism of the Council of the North, against the great power wielded by the individual mayor. It suggests that the plays were the responsibility of the mayor, who was therefore held accountable personally by the state authorities. And it shows how factions grouped for diverse reasons: Goodman's arguments range widely across religious, economic, social, and legal fields, while the alleged Catholic sympathizer Hankey is said to have gained encouragement from Edward, the 12th earl of Derby, a member of the Council of the North, who was suspected of recusant sympathies.

The 1575 production was understandably seen as an act of defiance against the archbishop and the earl of Huntingdon (see p 161). Consequently Sir John Savage was summoned to London to appear before the privy council. No record remains of Savage's appearance before the council; but he wrote to the city council to request a certificate to confirm that the city council, and not he alone, had ordered the plays; his successor, Henry Hardware I, sent the certificate stating that both Savage and Hankey, who had also now been drawn into the matter, had acted with the council's consent (see pp 173–4). Apparently this shared 'guilt' satisfied the central government, for Savage returned to Chester and continued a successful public career.

After 1575 the carriage-houses were demolished to allow new development. We can trace the fate of some of them. As early as 1573 the Mercers' carriage-house had been converted into a stable (see p 150), and by 1603–4 the Drapers' carriage-house had been demolished, though it was evidently still standing in 1591–2 (see pp 239, 294). The Tailors' carriage-house in Fleshmongers Lane had been pulled down by 1630–1 by order of the city treasurers to allow the construction of the Newgate (see p 531). The site remained a source of contention thereafter, the company claiming that the city had promised to replace the building and then seeking permission to build on the land at their own cost. Finally, in 1636, William Hand petitioned the city for land in Watergate that he claimed had been promised to him in compensation for the Tailors' carriage-house land, which had been previously made over to him and on which he had a frame made for his new house (see p 571).

The Rogers' Descriptions of the Plays

The Rogers' Breviaries are of particular interest to scholars of medieval drama because they include the earliest and most extensive descriptions of Chester's medieval plays (see also Appendix 4).[10] The Breviaries, the accounts of guild expenditures, and the stage directions in the texts are our principal sources of information about the production of the plays. Where these accounts seem contradictory it is tempting perhaps to dismiss parts of the Rogers' descriptions on the grounds that they were written down some thirty-five years after the last performance, whereas the contemporary guild accounts and the texts may reflect more closely the actual conditions of performance. The Breviaries are, nonetheless, near-contemporary documents, allegedly representing the 'collectiones' of David's father, Robert, who died in 1595, and should not be dismissed unless there is clear proof of their inaccuracy. This section considers the evidence and problems that the descriptions of the plays in the Breviaries present, taking into account the evidence of the other records. The discussion follows the arrangement of the material in David Rogers' first version of the Breviary, CCALS: ZCX 3.

Authorship

The popular tradition in Chester was that the plays were written by a monk of the abbey of St Werburgh named 'Rondoll' and were performed under the first mayor, Sir John Arneway. This monk has frequently been associated with Ranulf Higden, the author of the major history of the later Middle Ages, the *Polychronicon*; but as Salter convincingly showed the attribution is undoubtedly a local fiction that perhaps arose in response to agitation against the plays.[11] That the plays were first performed under Arneway is no doubt equally erroneous (see pp cvii–cviii). Arneway was not the first mayor and his mayoralty cannot be connected with the years cited by Rogers and by several of the Mayors Lists. Salter argued that the tradition that the plays were produced for the first time under the supposed first mayor arose in order to bolster the plays by claiming antiquity for them.

David Rogers did not invent this tradition; he merely transmitted it. In fact he (or his father) probably drew the information from the Late Banns, as is suggested by similarities of phraseology in the marginalia, the Banns, and the description. He apparently accepted the Banns as authoritative and believed that the monk 'Rondoll,' whom he identifies with Higden in the earliest version of the Breviary, wrote the plays (see p 331).[12] It is clear that David found out that Arneway was not the first mayor; as a result he altered his statement about the first performances of the plays in the later Breviaries. Altogether he gives us a considerable choice of dates for the first performance: respectively 1329, 1332, 1339, 1328, and 1328.[13] The first and the last two dates can be traced to the List of Mayors in the first Breviary, CCALS: ZCX 3: the original entry was recorded as 1329 and was later corrected to 1328. The 1339 date is probably a mistranscription of 1329; and the 1332 date is unsupported by any extant list of mayors and seems to be a drastic mistranscription. Finally the accuracy of the descriptions cannot be impugned on the basis of the transmission of this bit of local fiction. Clearly the tradition arose as part of the attempt to maintain and continue an ancient custom; other documents, particularly city and guild charters, claim the continuance of privileges because they have been held 'tyme out of mynd,' and the same intention probably lies behind the association of the plays with the supposed first mayor and the city's most famous literary figure even though the latter was identified as a monk.

The Banns

David Rogers tells us that the plays were divided into twenty-four parts according to the number of companies in the city, but he then attaches a list of those parts that add up to twenty-five. Clearly Rogers got the number '24' from the Banns themselves: 'This matter he [the monk] abreuiated into playes xxiiij^tie' (see p 333). In the margins of the Banns each of the twenty-four companies is numbered as it is called forth. Furthermore all the play manuscripts number the plays one through twenty-four, even though the individual scribes recognize some confusion over play sixteen.[14] The List of Companies and Their Parts, which appears after the Banns, apparently exists as an independent document; and if each day's assigned pageants are added up – a task David did not attempt – one arrives at the figure of twenty-five. This juxtaposition of contradictory material suggests that David was uncritically copying from his collection of source materials. The description and the Banns probably depict the cycle when the two parts of play sixteen were a single pageant (the 'Passion') as they are in BL: Harley MS 2124, while the List of Companies describes the cycle before the amalgamation.[15] David's source materials, therefore, derive from two different periods of the cycle's history. The fact that David's collection of notes may have come from various points in the history of the plays may be significant in explaining other discrepancies or apparent contradictions between the descriptions of the productions and those suggested by the texts of the plays in their present state. Lastly it may be significant that David deleted the reference to the twenty-four parts in CCALS: DCC 19 and the late Breviaries after he had begun to examine and revise the materials in his possession.

David's claims that the Banns were read on St George's Day by a man 'warlike apparaled like st. George' (see p 442) are not confirmed by any documents other than the Breviaries. But the establishment of the St George's Day horse race may have been intended to substitute a new custom for an older one (see pp 347–54; see also below, p lxix). The Banns were certainly not read on that day before the last two performances: John Hankey applied to the council on 29 April 1572 and Sir John Savage on 30 May 1575 to have the plays performed in the city in those years (see p 174). Since there already had been an attempt to delay the plays in 1572, the arrangements for the 1575 performance did not get underway until later than usual. For performances in earlier years it is possible that the crier dressed as St George and that the expenses for his costume as well as his services account for the relatively high payment by all the guilds together of 24d.

The Late Banns, the List of Companies and Their Parts attached to the Early Banns, and the Early Banns themselves all agree that the plays were performed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Whitsun week in the sixteenth century (see pp 79, 86, 331). These documents are further supported by an item in the Smiths' accounts for their performance on the second day of the 'Purification' (play 11) in 1568: 'for bacon on tewsday morning for players brekfast x d.' (see p 126).

The Route

When Rogers says that 'euery streete had a pagiant playinge before them at one time' (see p 486), he seems to mean that the four streets of the city were the playing places. 'Streete' here designates the four main roads through the city, as opposed to the smaller 'lanes.' Rogers makes that distinction himself at the end of the ZCX 3 and Harley MS 1944 copies, where he says that the pageants moved from the abbey to the Pentice and then 'to the bridge streete, through the lanes & so to the estegatestreete' (see p 332). Earlier in the document however David refers only to the abbey, the Pentice, and Eastgate and Bridge Streets, and makes no specific reference to a last or fifth station in Eastgate Street. Arguably a playing place in Eastgate Street could have created a logistical problem if carriages had to pass through that street to reach the first playing place in Northgate Street at the abbey (see Appendix 4, p 883). Nevertheless David had access to documents that are no longer available and it is possible that there may have been a fifth playing place in Eastgate Street. We can be reasonably sure that this itinerary is correct since the players, or perhaps the 'putters' who pushed the carriages through the streets and lanes, were in the habit of taking refreshment as they went along; thus the dean and chapter provided beer for the players at Abbey Gate (see pp 121, 137), and the Smiths had bread in Northgate Street and drink in Watergate Street in 1554 (see p 96), and beer in Bridge Street in 1572 (see p 142).

The route follows the natural terrain of the city. There is a slight decline from Northgate Street to the Pentice but the street remains fairly level from there along Watergate Street. To reach Bridge Street from Watergate Street without crossing the previous playing place at the Pentice, the carriages would have had to have been manoeuvred through the narrow lanes – possibly Commonhall Lane. If the fourth playing place was at the Bridgegate itself the carriages would have had to negotiate a sharp incline to the gate. On the other hand if the fourth place was further up Bridge Street, near its intersection with Pepper Street, the route would have been less challenging. The carriages could then go out via Newgate at the end of Pepper Street to Eastgate Street. This route would provide sufficient locations to accommodate the crowds if, as Rogers says, 'all bothe farr and neere came to see them [the plays]' (see p 580).

In the Liverpool version of the Breviary David claims that the 'firste place where they begane, was. at the Abaye gates, where the monks and Churche mighte haue the firste sight: And then it was drawne. to the highe Crosse before the mayor and Aldermen' (see p 580). The first two locations may have been so precisely designated because it was at these places that the city's two sets of dignitaries, the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, sat though it is questionable whether the monks ever formed part of the audience. But the support of the cathedral is indicated by the fact that the dean and chapter paid for a 'ma*n*syon ov*er th*e gat*es*' in 1572 (see p 137) and in 1567 'for a brode clothe againste the witson pleaes' (see p 121). If this was a mansion for viewing it would probably have been for the higher officials in the cathedral and their guests. Rogers may have thought that this reflected a pre-Reformation practice though it would have been impossible to build a mansion over the Abbey Gate large enough to accommodate all the monks to watch the plays. David's reference to 'monks' in the first version of the Breviaries is clearly an error but may have been from a pre-Reformation document or based on the assumption that monk 'Rondoll' wrote the plays; subsequent versions of the Breviary do not contain this reference to monks.

Rogers does not designate the exact locations of the last three performance areas, though the Webster case has led to suggestions for a more precise location within Bridge Street or Lower Bridge Street (see pp 118–19 and endnote).

The Carriages

The greatest controversy over Rogers' descriptions centres on the structure of the pageant carriages. The first difficulty is his phrase 'open on the tope' (see p 332). At the end of the nineteenth century Rupert Morris, in his history of Chester, assumed that Rogers' statement that the pageants were 'open on the tope' meant that they were roofless. Salter, however, argued that the carriages could not have been roofless because windlasses were necessary for ascents. In addition he noted that there is a discrepancy between Harley MSS 1944 and 1948 over the number of wheels, that there was no apparent necessity for a lower dressing-room, and that this two-tiered structure would be ungainly.[16] Glynne Wickham later argued that there would be insufficient playing space in such a structure and that Rogers must have misunderstood his records; as a result Wickham suggested that there may have been a dressing-room behind the playing area and that the carriage was drawn up to a platform stage which would give greater freedom of movement to the actors.[17] But modern productions on carriages by the *Poculi Ludique Societas* in Toronto and the experiments of Jane Oakshott, Meg Twycross, and others in England in the streets of Chester and York have demonstrated that a single carriage provides ample playing space for most plays in a cycle.

David's phrase 'open on the tope' may not mean 'roofless,' although some pageants may have been so. We should not assume that all pageants were roofed in order to accommodate machinery for ascent by windlasses if only because not all plays have ascents. In play 20, after line 96, the stage direction states, 'Jesus stans in loco ubi assendit.'[18] Does he move to a particular place on the carriage where he will be hoisted up, or does he move to a location outside the carriage attached to some building? Evidence of pageant cars from the continent suggests that some of

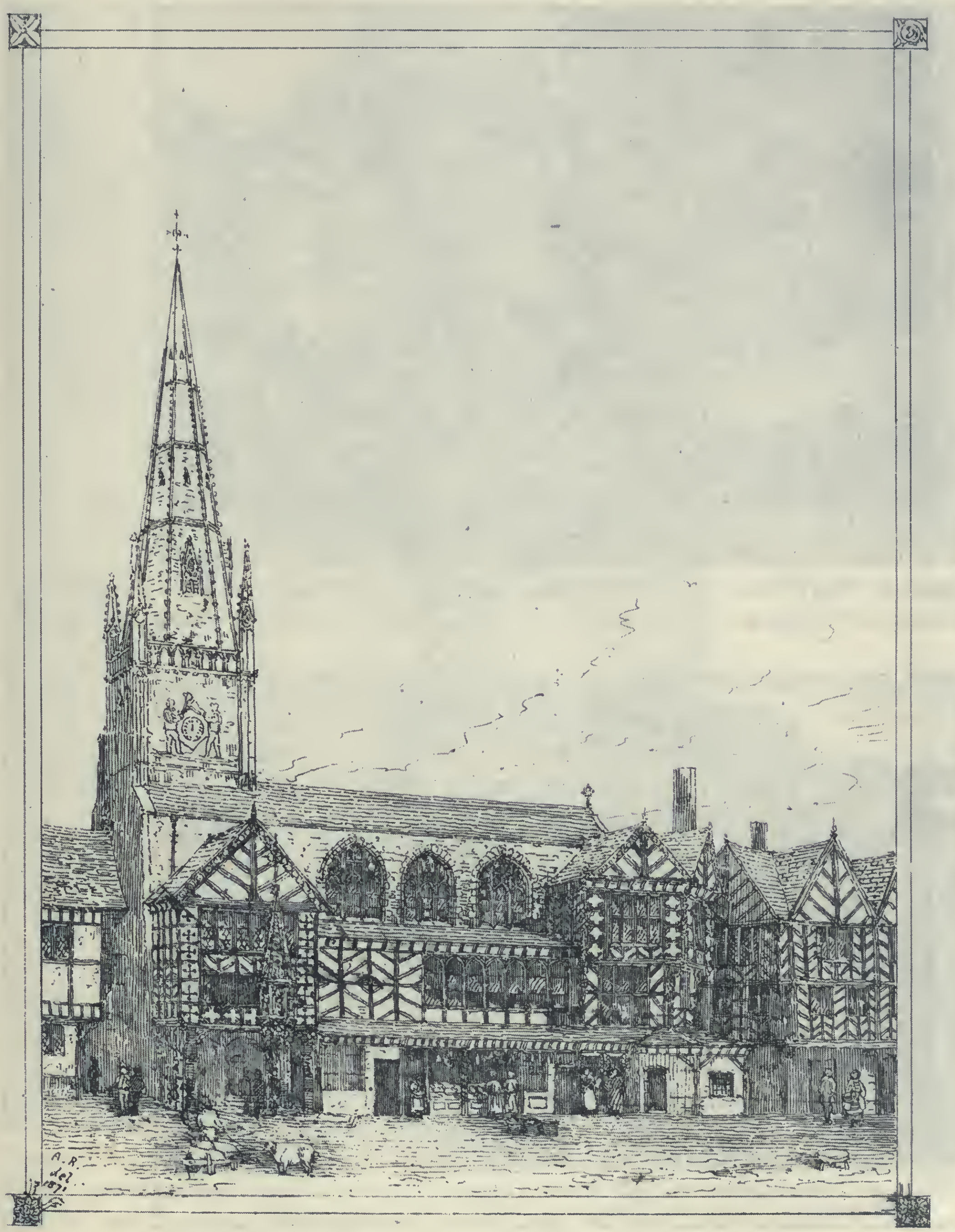

Figure 1 St Peter's Church and the Pentice. Reproduced from J.S. Howson and Alfred Rimmer, *Chester as it was* (London, 1872), facing the opening of Chapter VII. By kind permission of Chester History and Heritage.

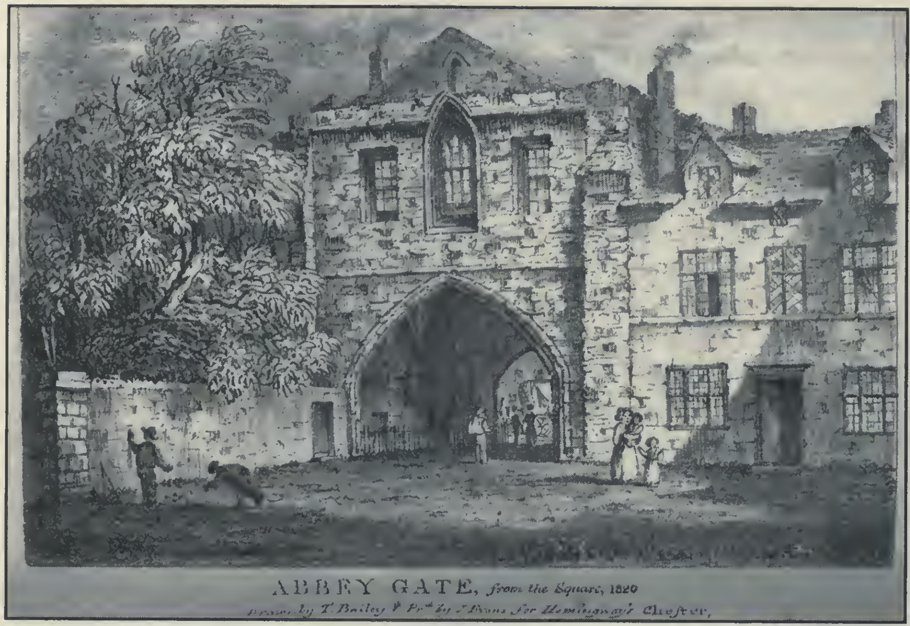
ABBEY GATE, from the Square, 1820
Drawn by T. Bailey & Prd by J Evans for Hemingway's Chester,

Figure 2a Abbey Gate, *c* 1820. Reproduced from Joseph Hemingway, *A History of the City of Chester*, vol 2 (Chester, 1831), facing p 16. By kind permission of Chester History and Heritage.

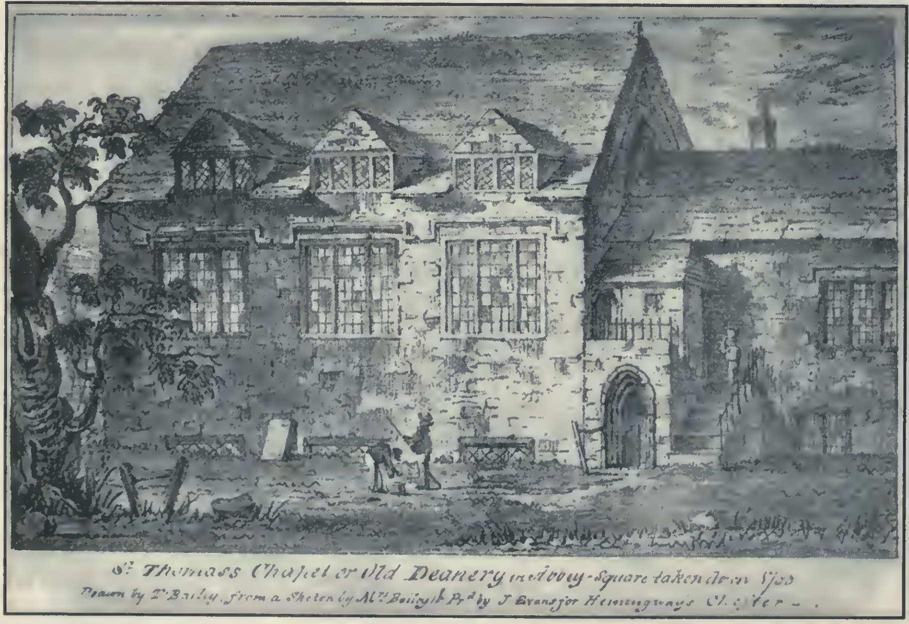
St. Thomass Chapel or Old Deanery in Abbey-Square taken down
Drawn by T. Bailey, from a Sketch by Mr. Bailey & Prd by J Evans for Hemingway's Chester

Figure 2b Dean's House (artist's impression). Reproduced from Joseph Hemingway, *A History of the City of Chester*, vol 2 (Chester, 1831), facing p 18. By kind permission of Chester History and Heritage.

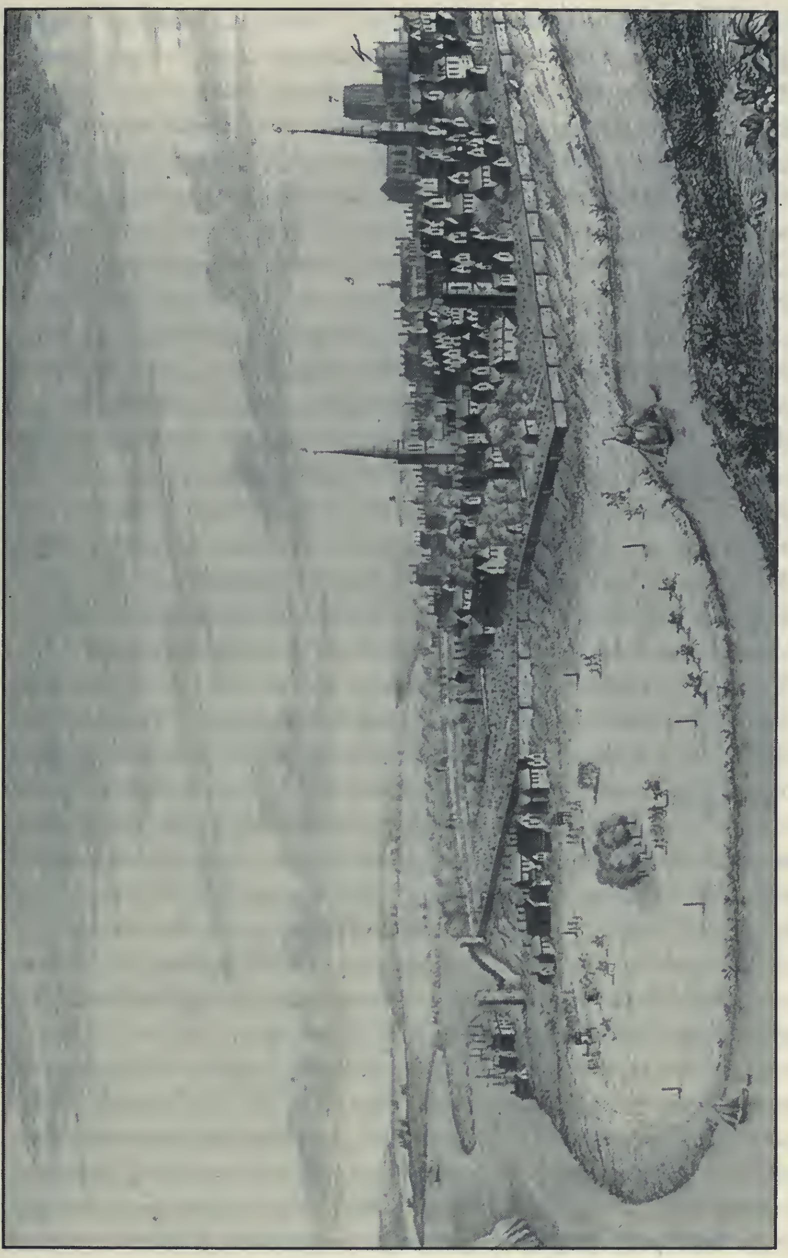

Figure 3 Southwest prospect of Chester, 1728, showing the Roodee and Water Tower in the foreground. Reproduced from Nathaniel and S. Buck, *Views of Ruins*, Buck 1726–1729, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies. By kind permission of CCALS.

Key to Figure 3 – 1 Town wall; 2 St John's Church; 3 Trinity Church; 4 St Martin's Church; 5 Town Hall; 6 St Peter's Church; 7 St Werburgh's Church those pageants may have been roofed. But the phrase may merely distinguish between the open playing area of the carriage as opposed to the lower part of the carriage being 'hanged aboute richly and closse' (see p 441), indicating that the pageant was open at the sides and front so that 'all behoulders mighte heare & see' (see p 485). This kind of 'dressing' of the pageant again has parallels with continental examples. It should be remembered that Chester's Rows, above street level, also provided vantage-points for spectators who, according to the height of the carriage, might have viewed the plays from above.

A second difficulty is Rogers' description of a lower dressing-room in the carriage. In the early Breviaries and Harley MS 1948, he states that the carriages were two-tiered and that the upper room was used as a stage and the lower room as an apparelling area. A lower room would add needlessly to the height of the carriage and it is difficult to see why an apparelling space should be necessary. Many of the plays do not permit much opportunity for the doubling of roles, and thus there would have been no need for the changing of costumes during a performance. However the longer and more complicated plays of the Passion sequence do admit the possibility of doubling. In 1572 the Bowyers paid a total of 9s 5d to Hugh Gillam, John Stynson, and Richard Cally, all apparently members of the guild, and Thomas Marser, whose status is unclear (see p 138).[19] For the performance in 1575, an unusual year in other respects, the only actors' wages are for the 'turmenters' (4s 6d), 'annas' (22d), and 'pylat and to him that caried arrat*es* clothes' (6s 6d) (see p 164). Was this last a payment to a page carrying Pilate's train, as Salter suggests?[20] Or did Pilate double as Herod and someone carry his costume from place to place? Furthermore the four actors in the 1572 list and the six in the 1575 list are too few to have performed all the roles in the first part of play 16. If the Bowyers and the Ironmongers shared the expenses of the play, as the amalgamated text of BL: Harley MS 2124 records, then both may well have contributed actors to the performance of a merged play. The 'Passion' has twenty-three roles: nine characters are introduced in the Bowyers' part of the play and fourteen new ones appear in the Ironmongers' half. In BL: Harley MS 2124 the maximum number of actors on stage at one time is twelve.[21] The twenty-three parts, therefore, could possibly have been played by twelve actors. But even if there was doubling, there seems little purpose in constructing a two-tiered cart for this reason alone. A simpler explanation is that the stewards may not have recorded all expenses or listed all the actors.

The tradition of a two-tiered carriage may have arisen from an assumption on Rogers' part that the enclosed undercarriage was used for costume changes. In DCC 19 Rogers says the 'Pagiant was a scaffolde, or a high foure square buildinge, w*it*h .2. rowmes a higher and alower, the lower hanged aboute richly and closse, into w*hi*ch, none, but the actors came, on the higher they played theire p*ar*tes' (see p 441). The guilds probably hung cloths around the undersides of the carriage. Possibly they stored props and some of their costumes there. Moreover some of the plays seem to have required traps, which would utilize the lower area. For example, in play 2, after line 160, the stage direction reads, 'Then the serpente shall come up out of a hole,' and traps in the stage might also have been used in the raising of the dead in plays 23 and 24.[22]

The third difficulty is illustrated by Harley MS 1948, where Rogers concludes his description with the following: 'and also scafoldes and stages made in the streetes in those places where they determined to playe theire pagiantes' (see p 486). Rogers also uses 'scafolde' to refer to the two-tiered structure itself in DCC 19 and Harley 1948, though he is clearly groping for an appropriate terminology since in DCC 19 he goes on to define it as 'a high foure square buildinge'; in the early Breviaries he refers to the 'Pagiantes' as a 'carige' and in the Liverpool copy as a 'buildinge' (see pp 332, 580). The variations suggest that Rogers either used these terms interchangeably or, more probably, that he was confused or inattentive about the structure or had conflicting source notes. The scaffolds and stages may have been structures used to increase the playing area, as Wickham once suggested, but it seems more probable that the terms refer to spectator areas. There is no evidence in any of the guild records that the companies contributed to their cost. The treasurers' accounts for the city are few and not continuous for the period, and though they record the city's expenditure for morris dancers at Midsummer and the 1564 triumph, there are no indications of expenditure on the Whitsun Plays.[23] However the lack of evidence cannot be considered conclusive in this case since the extant treasurers' accounts, with the exceptions of those for 1571–2 and 1574–5, are for years in which we know plays were not performed.[24] Nevertheless in 1572, when the plays were performed under Mayor Hankey, there are still no expenses recorded for city entertainments except for the morris dancers. Could they have been financed privately, as perhaps the Webster case might imply (see pp 118–19 and endnote)?

A fourth difficulty concerns the number of wheels on the carriage. In CCALS: ZCX 3 Rogers states that the carriages had 'vj' wheels, but in all later versions he says that they had four. This discrepancy may originate in a textual error as Alan Nelson has suggested. On the other hand supporters of the six-wheel theory point to the greater manoeuvrability afforded by a six-wheel structure, where the front two wheels would be steerable, an advantage in moving through the narrower 'lanes' between the 'streets,' although this does not account for the later four-wheel reading.[25] Possibly the number of wheels varied.

Two further points need to be noted. In all but ZCX 3 David states that the plays were performed annually (see pp 441, 482, 580), and in all copies he says that the last performance occurred in 1574 during Sir John Savage's mayoralty. Though, as noted above, the last performance did take place under Savage, the performance took place, not in 1574, but at Midsummer 1575 (see pp 159–60). Rogers' List of Mayors places the mayor's name next to the year of accession (see the headnote to the Mayors Lists description which explains the problems of dating, pp cvii–cviii). Rogers has used the accession year as the date of performance.

The statement that the plays were performed annually is certainly not true of post-Reformation productions. Even the Rogers' descriptions seem to belie this assertion, for DCC 19 says that the Banns 'published that the playes were [to be] played that yeare' (see p 442) and, elsewhere, Rogers records that the Midsummer Show and the Whitsun Plays were not performed in the same years, that is, after the creation of the Midsummer Show in 1499.[26] ZCX 3 does not mention annual performance; the statement is inserted into the copy made from it, Harley MS 1944. Most of the other customs of the city took place annually and it is possible that Rogers assumed that the Whitsun Plays did as well. An alternative is that some of Rogers' sources were pre-Reformation and prior to 1499 and that these early sources referred to a time when the plays were annual.

Many of the details of the Rogers' descriptions are corroborated by external evidence; the most important detail – the descriptions of the pageant carriages – is unfortunately neither substantiated nor clarified by the records. The texts of the plays indicate that a great variety of structures was needed. Some of the pageants could be modest indeed; others seem to call for several rooms or loci. The actors quite clearly used the streets when riding horses, camels, and asses.[27] The fact that a wide range of structures is indicated in the texts does not force us to conclude that the Rogers' description is totally inaccurate; his plan in fact may be accurate for some of the pageants and may be generally true of a great many others. Clearly Rogers' descriptions are not detailed ones; their very organization, which allots about one sentence each to the plays' beginnings, their manner of performance, the time of performance, and so forth, suggests that the descriptions were intended as short notes on one of the city's ancient customs. Some of the contradictions can be resolved but others remain puzzling. The ambulatory route is, however, accurate for performance from *c* 1520 to 1572.

OCCASIONAL DRAMA IN CHESTER

Sometimes one of the Whitsun Plays was abstracted from the cycle to be performed for a visiting dignitary. Such was the case with the performance of the Wives' play of 'The Assumption of the Virgin Mary' at the High Cross in 1489–90, which was watched by Lord Strange (see p 62). The same play was performed at the Abbey Gate when Prince Arthur visited Chester in 1498–9 (see p 63). This may suggest that the play had some spectacular dramatic effect. It was evidently performed as a double bill with 'The Shepherds' in St John's churchyard on an unspecified occasion in 1515–16 (see p 67). The play, and its sponsoring group, disappeared from the later cycle, probably because of Protestant objection. When the earl of Derby and his son visited Chester in 1578, 'The Shepherds' was performed for them at the High Cross, together with triumphs on the Roodee and a comedy from Terence played by the scholars of the King's School in the mayor's house (see p 182). This festival of plays for Mayor Thomas Bellin's play-loving guests was to be the last performance of one of the Whitsun Plays in Chester until the twentieth century.

The Whitsun Plays were not the only kind of drama performed regularly within Chester. There is no clear evidence of liturgical drama in Chester surviving perhaps because most of the ecclesiastical records before the Reformation have disappeared. It is likely that there were liturgical 'representationes' in the city.[28] There are records for attending the sepulchre at Easter from the 1530s into the 1540s at St Mary's; Holy Trinity Church kept a sepulchre up to Edward's reign, revived it in the 1550s, and used it until about 1560; and St Michael's lists a sepulchre in its inventories from 1559–65, though this feature does not necessarily indicate the performance of a liturgical play. The dean and chapter of Chester Cathedral made payments for a Palm Sunday prophet in 1544, 1556, and 1559 as part of the Palm Sunday processional rite. Such records indicate that lay people participated in these liturgical 'representationes,' an instance of clerical ritual moving into lay practice.[29]

Occasionally prominent citizens sponsored spectacular shows called 'triumphs' on the Roodee (see Figure 3). In 1564 William Crofton and William Man, master of the King's School in Chester, devised what the documents indicate was a spectacular triumph of 'Dido and Aeneas' (see p 112). The triumphs put on by Mayor Thomas Bellin for the earl of Derby and his son in 1578 were probably on the same scale. And we have particularly detailed knowledge of the triumph commissioned by Robert Amery to inaugurate the St George's Day race in 1610 (see below, p lxix). Possibly, too, a performance of a St George's play in 1430–1 may point to a tradition of a folk or saint play in the city (see p 49). Its absence from later records may suggest that the other civic entertainments, and finally the race on St George's Day, replaced anything that might previously have been there.

CONGLETON

Chester was the largest and most dominant town in Cheshire, as well as the town for which the most records survive. However it is clear from such records as do survive that other towns in Cheshire had civic drama, albeit on a smaller scale. Congleton had a reputation, which the records confirm, for enthusiastic support of bearbaiting. A rhyme current in Victorian times speaks of how 'Congleton rare, Congleton rare/ Sold the Bible to pay for a bear.' No date is given for this and the story explaining it does not stand up to scrutiny, but it does capture Congleton's attachment to bearbaiting.[30] The Congleton borough accounts, a rich source for visiting players and bearwards, indicate that in 1620–1 both the scholars and the townsmen of Congleton performed plays, the former in February, the latter in April (see pp 646–7). They did, however, find it necessary to import 'Calis the musitian' from Chester on both occasions to provide music. The mayor and burgesses of Congleton also had their civic processions and harnessed men marching at the fairs but as these processions did not involve spectacles such as those of the Chester Midsummer Show (see below), they have not been included here.

Touring and Professional Entertainers

It is difficult to build up a clear picture of the number of touring groups traversing Cheshire because records are scattered and sporadic and there is little clear evidence of travelling entertainers. The city of Chester did not take an adverse stand against plays until late in the sixteenth century, so probably the occasional productions mentioned in the early records were performed by visitors rather than the citizens: for example in 1529–30, 'an Enterlude named kinge Roberte of Scissill' (see p 70), and in 1588–9, 'the storey of Kinge Ebrauk' (see p 223). Payments to specified companies in the later sixteenth century – for example Queen Elizabeth's players in 1589–90, 1590–1, and 1591–2 (see pp 228, 234, 239) – come from the cathedral treasurers' accounts rather than the civic accounts. An order in the Chester assembly book in 1596–7 stating that 'there shalbe neither play nor bearebeat vpon the Cities charges' (see p 259) offers an explanation for this dearth although the leave-lookers in 1613 were claiming that they had spent 'much money' on 'manye Noble mens players and alsoe beeres,' which they did willingly 'for the Creditt of the Cittye' (see pp 394–5).[31] Possibly the uncertain reception that might await such groups entering a town whose administration oscillated between Puritan opponents of the drama and those who welcomed such performers discouraged travelling playing troupes from coming. But there are some indications that, at least from time to time, such companies may have been encouraged or invited to perform in Chester.

'Enterludes' and 'wanton and vayne playes' performed at night were among the vain pastimes condemned by Christopher Goodman in his letter to the earl of Derby in 1583 (see pp 199–200). Goodman claimed that Chester had maintained such pastimes 'costomablye' and presents the usual Puritan objections to them – as conducive to public disorder, wasting the citizens' money, distracting people from their lawful business, promoting idleness, and offending God. They had been condemned from the pulpit. But Goodman also says that the city had been reluctant to reject such entertainers, partly because it had been customary to allow them to perform, but also because the city officers were afraid of offending the powerful lords whose liveries these travellers wore, and that they therefore needed the support of the earl's authority in dealing with the problem. The letter suggests a steady stream of travelling entertainers coming to Chester.

It seems inevitable however that antagonism towards the Whitsun Plays should then be directed towards the suppression or control of other dramatic activity. The city council's 1596 ordinance (above) forbade plays as well as bullbaits within the city. But the same order states that, lest the city become known for being miserly, the mayor is allowed to reward travelling players of the queen with 20s and other noblemen's troupes with no more than 6s 8d (see p 259). Does this proviso indicate that such companies were paid but not allowed to perform, or is the restriction directed towards locally produced entertainment only? In 1602 it was the ill fortune of Francis Coffin and his troupe to enter Chester when drama and associated entertainments were in disfavour, and to run into a mayor who knew that Coffin's warrant had been revoked (see p 293). Yet in 1606 Lord Hertford's men apparently had the foresight to ask the earl of Derby to send a letter on their behalf that they might play in the city and the Common Hall (see pp 304–5). Apparently the city relented in their decision to ban 'players' altogether, for in 1615 they made another ordinance that only sought to ban them from the Common Hall at night because of the bad reputation that such occasions gave the city (see p 407). The ordinance is rather curious since it at first implies that the council finds the performance of plays inappropriate in the Common Hall – that is, they seem to object less to the plays than to the place of performance. They go on to forbid the playing of tragedies and comedies on the grounds that servants and apprentices have been neglecting their masters' business and wasting their masters' goods by resorting to see plays. In the last sentence of the ordinance they repeat their ban of 'anie other Plaie by what name soever they shall terme hit' but, unexpectedly and illogically, they limit the ban to plays at night or after 6 PM.

There is one other suggestive hint of travelling troupes that may have performed dramatic activities of some kind. A court case of 1602 in Chester refers to a play 'in the cornemarkett place' at about 10 PM (see p 290). This cryptic statement, augmented with Goodman's strictures, and the city's legislation concerning stage plays, indicates that visiting companies may well have visited Chester more frequently from the later sixteenth century onwards than the lack of specific entries might suggest.

It is in the east of the county that the fullest and clearest evidence of travelling companies survives. Alan Coman's rediscovery of the records of the borough of Congleton has radically changed our appreciation of the importance of entertainers in east Cheshire, for Congleton has proved to be a major stopping and performing place for travelling groups.[32] During the period 1588/9–1634/5 the town records record some fifty payments to playing companies. The majority of the payments were to the company of William Stanley, 15th earl of Derby, with regular payments also being made to the queen's and king's companies. The royal companies require some elucidation. There are in fact three companies involved here: the queen's players were either Queen Elizabeth's men (before 1603) or Queen Anne's (from 1603 to 1619). The king's men (after 1603) were formerly the lord chamberlain's men. Payments to Derby's players appear in twelve years' accounts, including three instances where they performed or were paid jointly with another company, and to players of the respective monarchs, Elizabeth, James i, and Charles i, for thirteen years.[33] In addition there are payments to Queen Anne's players in three years, plus one combined performance with the earl of Derby's. In 1633–4 the clerk seemed to feel that some justification for the payment was needed: 'the players beinge servau*n*tts to the kinges ma*ie*sties Revellors,' although it is probable that 'Revellors' refers to the children of the king's revels, formed in 1629; if so it would be unusually far north for them to travel. Occasionally it seems that two companies joined forces to perform. The 1621–2 accounts show a single payment of 20s to 'the Kinge*s* Ma*ie*sties Players and the Lorde of Derbies' (see p 648), which is paralleled by the payment in the first quarter of 1622–3 of 20s to 'plaiers who had the kinge*s* broade [broade] seale beinge the Late Queenes and the Earle of Derbeys plaiers Ioyned togeither' (see p 649). Queen Anne had died in 1619 but players were travelling under her licence until as late as 1628. The earl of Derby's company also had a joint payment with the king's players on 14 December 1623–4 (see p 652), but the records do not specify if this was in fact a joint performance.

Other companies appear more sporadically in the Congleton accounts. Lord Darcy's players came to Congleton three times in the recorded period but not after 1591–2. Prince Charles' players first appeared in 1615–16 and made four further visits thereafter although on their last visit in 1623–4 they were called away before they could perform (see pp 641, 646, 648, 650–1). The players of the Princess Elizabeth made three visits (see pp 648–9, 656). In 1622–3 a precise clerk notes that Lady Elizabeth's players, 'shewed theire aucthorytie,' the certificate from their patron which proved their legitimacy and established their entitlement to perform. Other occasional performances were given by the players of Lord Dudley, the earl of Worcester, the lord admiral's men, Lord Monteagle's players, and Lord Stafford's players (see pp 619, 620, 634, 636, 638, 641). The entry for the earl of Worcester's players is in the fourth quarter of 1591, ending at Michaelmas. This company also performed in Newcastle upon Tyne in September of 1591 and at Shrewsbury (with the earl of Derby's musicians) at some point in 1590–1, probably as part of the same tour.[34] There is no other record of their visiting Congleton, so this was evidently not a normal touring route for that troupe. In addition there are several unspecific entries in the accounts such as 'players and bearewardes at the Wakes' (see p 636). The most intriguing of these are a set of payments that occur in January and February 1630/1. The same company was paid 6s 8d on 31 January and then another 6s 8d on 5 February, specifically because they were not allowed to play on the sabbath (which in 1630/1 fell on 6 February) (see p 658). Another payment mentions players 'that were heare the last of ffebr*uary* & first of March 1631' receiving 13s 4d, which suggests that the earlier 6s 8d was for a single performance. The earlier group presumably had left Congleton and returned less than a week later. Tumblers also visited Congleton: in 1620/1 3s 4d was paid to the earl of Derby's servant for showing 'ffeates of Activitie' (see p 646).

PAYMENTS AND REWARDS

The going rate for visiting companies varied, between visits of a single company as well as between companies. Different factors affecting the amount paid would have been likely to include the importance and influence of the patron, the number of performances, the attitude of the mayor and aldermen towards players, and possible budgetary considerations such as the number of other payments that had already been made in that quarter. The players of the earl of Derby received amounts that ranged from a low of 5s in 1608–9 to a high of 13s 4d and 20s in 1627–8 but their usual payment was 10s, which they received on six of their thirteen visits, and probably on two other occasions as well, when they were paid 20s jointly with one of the royal companies.

The payments to the earl of Derby's players are often equal to or only slightly less than those to the royal companies. For players of the reigning monarch (whether Elizabeth or James) the most frequent amount given was 10s (which the queen's men also received at Macclesfield in 1601). Queen Elizabeth's players received 20s on their first recorded visit to Congleton in 1597–8, and 13s 4d on their last visit in 1602–3. The king's players received 10s on seven occasions, 13s 4d on two, and on two other occasions were paid in combination with the earl of Derby's company (20s in 1621–2 and 11s in 1623–4). The players under the patronage of James I's queen, Anne of Denmark, also received payments of 10s (1614–15), 20s (1616–17), and 13s 4d (1617–18), and after Anne's death were paid 20s for performing with the earl of Derby's company (clearly, from the entry, a combination of the two companies rather than two performances) (see pp 639, 642, 649). Despite the fluctuation there does seem to have been a standard 10s payment from which variations were made. It is possible that the higher payments represent extended visits or a higher number of performances. This possibility is strengthened by the payments to an unspecified group of players for three occasions in 1631–2: they received 6s 8d for the first visit, the same on the second occasion when they were not allowed to perform, and 13s 4d the third time, which was explicitly stated to be for two days. Frequently the 10s payments to royal players coincide with the visit of other companies, usually Derby's. Competition may have been lowering the prices or the town may have had a set entertainment budget.

Companies belonging to Prince Charles and Princess Elizabeth also visited Congleton. The Lady Elizabeth's players received the standard 10s on all three of their visits. But Prince Charles' company received an interesting variety of payments: 20s 8d in 1615–16, 6s 8d in 1620–1, 20s in 1621–2, 13s 4d in 1622–3, and 3s 8d in 1623–4, when they did not play as they were hurrying back to London in answer to a summons from the prince. The 1621–2 payment appears to be higher than that given to the king's players (20s, but in conjunction with the earl of Derby's players). The players of the king's cousin, however, the 'Dewke of Lyneox his honors brother,' only received 5s in 1613/14. This is more in line with payments to minor companies who came to Congleton over the years. Payments ranged from 2s 6d to Lord Darcy's players in 1588–9 or Lord Dudley's players in 1613–14 to 7s to the lord admiral's company in 1592–3, to 10s to Lord Strange's men in 1634–5. The town records for Congleton give no mention of a visiting company of players between 1602–3 and 1606–7, yet a petition of 1605 speaks of seeing a 'stage plea' at a house in Congleton 'not longe sithence' (see pp 630–1).

Yet, despite occasional references to opposition to players, such as when deputy Wagge refused to allow them to play on the sabbath (see p 658), Congleton seems to have had a generally positive attitude towards travelling players. This is despite the town's association with such known Puritans as John Bradshaw, mayor in 1637. It may possibly have been connected with the influence of other members of the local gentry. The Savages of Rocksavage, suspected recusants, provided the first two stewards for life of Congleton: Sir Thomas Savage from 1624/5, and his son Sir John from 20 November 1635 when his father died.[35] Another local family, the Breretons of Brereton, apparently lent a canopy for the scholars' play in 1621.

ROUTES

This regular visitation of players is indicative of a touring route for the royal companies and that of the earl of Derby. Congleton evidently welcomed players and visiting companies seem to have been assured of a good reward. This welcoming attitude has to be seen in the wider context of flourishing entertainment in the town, with its rush-bearing, cockfights, and bearbaits, as well as the performances by the children of the grammar school. Congleton provides us with the most comprehensive records of touring companies in Cheshire and perhaps indicates what went on elsewhere, concealed beneath the generalities of the few passing allusions to players and plays.

A route northwards from Congleton led to Macclesfield. Unfortunately we have little information about that town's entertainments, but a single page of the Macclesfield town accounts survives which includes two payments under 1601 to travelling players, to the queen's players, and to 'Symcockes players,' who each received 10s, suggesting that Macclesfield too might have welcomed travelling troupes (see p 715 and endnote). The road north from Macclesfield would have brought players within reach of a promising collection of potential patrons at Lyme Park, Adlington Hall, Bramley Hall, Trafford, Wythenshawe, and Poynton.

The lack of information for comparable towns is frustrating. Stockport, not being a municipal borough with its own administration, presents few records of drama and ceremonial and, although it maintained a bridge across the River Mersey, was not an obvious route for travelling players. But Judge Lewknor's error in considering Stockport a borough in his order of 12 February 1607/8 (see p 773) refers to 'players' among those committing disorders in the town and suggests that the fair attracted both performers and bearwards.

Playing Places

INDOOR LOCATIONS

Several indoor playing places are mentioned in passing in the records, mainly locations in Chester itself. These include the mayor's house where the scholars performed 'A Commodie out of the book of Terence' for Henry Stanley, earl of Derby, and his son Ferdinando, Lord Strange, in August 1578, and '*Maste*r Deane's howse' where the earl of Essex's players sought to perform in 1582–3 (see pp 182, 193). The mayor who arranged the performance in 1578 was the mercer, Thomas Bellin, who owned a property in Eastgate Street that may have been the venue.[36] The Dean's House had been the chapel of St Thomas before the Dissolution. It stood within the abbey precinct, on the north, and was rebuilt in the later eighteenth century (see Figure 2b). Burne speculates that payment was made by the archdeacon, Robert Rogers, because the then dean, Thomas Mawdesley, was away when the players arrived.[37] If so, that might suggest that a visiting troupe expected to be allowed to perform at the Dean's House whenever they arrived. An undated letter from Anthony St John to Sir Peter Legh invites him to see a play at the 'Bis*h*ips hall' (see p 818). Unfortunately exactly which bishop's hall is not specified: it need not have been in a see city, such as Chester, Coventry, or Lichfield. With such large dioceses the bishops may have had halls in various places as administrative bases and lodging when they travelled.

We may well infer that the 'maske' which evidently gave offence to Lady Willoughby and features in the account of a brawl in St John's churchyard was an indoor performance, though the record does not make clear in whose house the masque was performed. The most probable location was Lady Willoughby's house, but its location has not been identified. The performance seems to have been the responsibility of four of the citizens, and the date of 1 January 1582/3 suggests a New Year entertainment (see pp 197–8).

The prohibition of 20 October 1615 banning 'Stage Plaiers' performing in the Common Hall is the only evidence that we have for the hall as an indoor performance venue, and one of the few scraps of evidence for visiting companies to Chester. The resolution specifically bans players from setting up 'anye Stage,' which suggests that some raised performance area was customary on such occasions. The ban extends to all evening and night-time performances anywhere in Chester. The Common Hall would have been what the earl of Derby meant when in 1606–7 he asked the mayor to allow Lord Hertford's players to perform in 'the towne hall' (see pp 304–5). From the early sixteenth century the Common Hall at Chester was located in the former chapel of St Nicholas on what was then St Werburgh's Lane, near its intersection with Northgate, at the southwest corner of Chester Cathedral.[38]

Guilds might rehearse their plays indoors, in the house of one of the company officers, at an inn, or at some other convenient indoor venue. Thus in 1560–1 the Smiths rehearsed 'at Io*hn* huntingtons howse,' the house of a member of the company (see p 106), and in 1566–7 'under St Iohns' (see p 118); in 1567–8 the Painters held their first rehearsal 'at oure Aldermans' (see p 122); in 1571–2 the Bowyers, Fletchers, Coopers, and Stringers held their second rehearsal 'in the stuardes lenekers' (see p 138). In 1575 the Smiths 'Spent at Tyes to heare 2 plays before the Aldermen to take the best xviij d.' (see p 167). Tye was not a member of the company so this comparison, the only such for which we have record, may have been made at some neutral venue. Inns were often the venues for music and for dancing, and the company dinners, held in the companies' halls, were regularly occasions for music and occasionally for other entertainment.

There are very few specific playing places mentioned outside Chester in the Cheshire records, and not all of those can be identified. The Swan Inn at Congleton, where the king's and earl of Derby's companies performed in 1623–4, was probably the half-timbered sixteenth-century building now known as the Lion and Swan Hotel, on Swan Bank. Other visiting players at Congleton probably performed in inns such as the Swan or, as a petition of 1605 states, simply in 'a howse,' which could refer to an inn as well as to a private house (see p 631). Congleton may have also had a guild or town hall during our period: Ormerod mentions that the 1804 guildhall replaced 'a small ancient half-timber building,' although he gives no date for it.[39]

Other locations are even less clear: in 1620–1 the townsmen of Congleton performed their play in 'Mr Greenes court,' Mr Grene being one of the overseers in that year (see p 647). Scholars from the local free school also performed a play in that year. A scaffold was set up at the schoolhouse for them to play on and a canopy fetched for them from Brereton. The Brereton family had their seat at Brereton Hall, close to Congleton, and were honoured visitors to the town in 1602, 1602–3, and 1623–4 (see pp 627, 629, 654). The exact nature of the canopy is not revealed by the records, nor how it was used by the scholars.

Permanent playhouses outside London were very rare but Sir John Deane's Grammar School at Witton, outside Northwich, records payments in its accounts for repairs to their playhouse in 1637. The repairs were substantial as they involved over 100 man-days of work (see pp 800–2). It is not clear how Sir John Deane's Grammar School came to be in possession of a playhouse, or even whether it was in Witton itself. The school was originally endowed with lands in Chester and other places.

OUTDOOR LOCATIONS

The former Roman amphitheatre in Chester, of which half has been uncovered, was undoubtedly the earliest open-air venue for spectator entertainment, although it had long since been buried by the time of our earliest written records. The amphitheatre, the largest in Britain, stands outside the present walls to the west of St John's Church, and near the Newgate. Its arena measures 190 feet by 162 feet, with a surrounding wall of perhaps 35 feet in height. Spectators sat on tiered benches around the arena. Current archaeological investigations have revealed human remains consistent with gladiatorial combat.[40]

In the written records no information is given about the outdoor performances of plays in Cheshire, with the exception of Chester, although other types of performance such as minstrelsy and May games did take place on village greens. A forged message from 1612 inviting two sisters to see a play at Eaton tantalizes with its possibilities: was there a play at all (see pp 665–6)? If so, who was performing – visitors or locals? And did Eaton have a big enough indoor location to accommodate an audience coming from the surrounding countryside? Outdoor performance is possible in this case.

Chester's Corpus Christi Play, its Whitsun Plays, and its Midsummer Show were all outdoor events. The earliest extant reference to a civic play cycle, in a document of 1421–2 (see p 47), is to a Corpus Christi Play; an earlier reference of 1398–9 to a brawl on Corpus Christi Day does not specifically refer to a play or indeed to a procession on that day (CCALS: ZMB/1, ff 55v–6), but the 1421–2 reference indicates that the cycle was already established by then. The route of the Corpus Christi procession ran from the earl's church of St Mary on the Hill to St John's Church outside the walls, though the exact path through the streets is not specified. Similarly the scattered references to its associated civic play, from 1421–2 to the last in 1471–2, give no indication of playing places, although it may be reasonably inferred that this was an open-air production which occurred in conjunction with the Corpus Christi procession itself, most probably at St John's churchyard. The Early Banns (see pp 79–87), certainly written before the Reformation, indicate that on at least one occasion, after the civic play had moved to Whitsun, the clergy took responsibility for presenting a play on Corpus Christi Day in honour of the feast. Since the clergy's play was in conjunction with the procession which ended at St John's, it may be inferred that it was performed outdoors and possibly in St John's churchyard when the procession arrived there. We do not know if such a play formed a regular feature of the occasion. St John's churchyard was also the venue for a performance in 1515–16 of 'The Assumption of the Virgin Mary' and 'The Shepherds' (see p 67).

As noted above the route and mode of production of the Whitsun Plays are indicated by David Rogers in his 'Breuary or some fewe Collectiones of the Cittie of Chester,' the first version of which he wrote in 1609 (see pp 326–47) and in which he identifies the sequence of playing places. The first place was at the gate of St Werburgh's Abbey, later the cathedral, in Northgate Street; here also, in 1498–9, Prince Arthur saw 'The Assumption of the Virgin Mary' which was 'found' (ie, sponsored) by the Wives of the town (see pp 63–4). A cryptic reference in a case of 1602 to one deponent going into Northgate Street to see a play sometime between three o'clock and five o'clock, and another deponent being seen at a play in the Cornmarket from eight until about ten o'clock, suggests later occasional outdoor performances in the street, but the exact venues are not indicated (see pp 289–90, 292). The second playing place at Whitsun was at the High Cross in front of the Pentice at the top of Bridge Street. Here also 'The Shepherds' was performed for Henry Stanley, 13th earl of Derby, and his son Ferdinando, Lord Strange, as part of the series of plays which mayor Thomas Bellin arranged for their visit in August 1578 (see p 182). Probably this was also the site of the performance of the 'The Assumption of the Virgin Mary' for Lord Strange in 1489–90, said to have been in Bridge Street (see p 62). The High Cross was the setting for a performance of 'Robert of Sicily' in 1529–30 and of 'King Ebrauk and his Sons' in 1588–9 (see pp 70, 223). Here also was the bull-ring where each year the Butchers baited a bull for the entertainment of the mayor and council.

Less precisely David Rogers says that the remaining stations for the Whitsun Plays were in Watergate Street, then in Bridge Street, which was reached through the lanes. His claim in 1609 that the plays were performed in every street suggests that there was also a playing place in Eastgate Street, but it may be significant that when, in later versions of the Breviary, David specifies the streets by name, Eastgate Street is not included. Although the playing places in the streets are not specified, attempts have been made to fix the Bridge Street location more precisely from the 1567–8 complaint of Ann Webster, a tenant of George Ireland, who was threatened with eviction from her rooms at the time of the Whitsun Plays (for the possible implications of this case, see pp 118–19 and endnote).

Although, as noted above, our records refer mostly to indoor rehearsals for the Whitsun Plays, we have one piece of evidence for an outdoor rehearsal which was watched by a member of the public. In 1570 Margaret Rodon, a prisoner from the city gaol, had been seen without her keeper at an outdoor rehearsal of a play on the cathedral green on the north of the cathedral precinct. On another occasion she was seen at a rehearsal at the New Tower, although it is not clear from that record whether that rehearsal was held indoors or out of doors (see pp 130–2 and endnote).

The Roodee was the venue for major sporting and dramatic events. It was the scene for the Shrovetide homages, the ceremonials and the races which, from 1539–40, replaced the football game that began there and ran through the streets (see pp 75–6). It was also the setting for 'triumphs' in 1563–4 and 1578. It was probably what the monk Lucian refers to as 'q*ua*dam loci planicie' beyond the walls in 1194–5, which had been the site of a recent tournament (see p 36). The St George's Day races were inaugurated in 1610 with a lavish pageant in the city. This was clearly an outdoor performance and began with an acrobatic display on St Peter's spire above the Pentice.

> A Man by strange deuises clyming to the toppe of a very high spire Steeple (standing at the Market Crosse, called S. Peters Steeple) carying an Auncient of our Colours of S. George, displaying the same upon the said Steeple, and fixing the same to the barre of Iron, that the Vane hangeth upon: Likewise, sounding a Drumme, shooting off a Peece, and flourishing a Sword, and standing upon the Crosse of the said barre of Iron, stood upon his hands with his feete into the Ayre, very dangerously and wonderfully to the view of the beholders, with casting Fire-workes very delightfull.[41]

Since the directions indicate that the performers moved to the Roodee only when the pageant was ended, it would appear that the performance was somewhere within the town itself (see further, pp 351–3).

Musical Performers

The terms 'minstrel' and 'musician' (or frequently 'musicioner') have both a generic and a specific meaning, and they also differ in status.[42] Both are performers of music and in this general sense the terms can be interchangeable, although there seems to have been a good deal of practical disagreement in the records about when to use which term. 'Minstrel' is the older term in the county and is used relatively neutrally in the earlier records. It also, presumably, carried the more specific meaning of a holder of a licence issued by Chester's minstrels' court (see below). The specific sense of 'musician' in the sixteenth century indicated one who had studied music formally, and was able to read polyphonic music, as opposed to the traditional performers who played by ear. The difference in status between the two is inherent in the definition. At the same time the term 'minstrel' (along with instrument-specific terms such as 'piper') became increasingly pejorative in the wake of Puritan opposition. Many minstrels and pipers began to self-identify as musicians, leading to a more general application of the term. To complicate matters further the term 'piper' itself takes on a generic meaning in the records, with performers who are known to have played other instruments being described officially as 'pipers.' This may have been the result of bureaucratic laziness, but it also reflects the fact that the majority of minstrels in Cheshire were in fact pipers. Whether the pipers were, as they sometimes claimed, musicians in the specific sense is not clear. In the discussion that follows the term 'minstrels' is used for the group of performers holding or likely to hold Dutton licences, and generically for performers at the lower end of the social scale.

It is convenient to distinguish broadly three kinds of musician in Chester – minstrels, waits, and the resident professional musicians. These groups, whose members and functions overlapped, contributed to what must have been a rich musical life in Chester, from the piper playing in the tavern, through the almost daily performance by the waits in the streets, to the performer at a private function in a gentleman's house. All might be involved in some aspect of the performance of the Whitsun Plays or the Midsummer Show. In recognition of the exceptional importance of music within the county, we have included an appendix of the musicians that we have found named in the records, whether identified as performing or not (Appendix 6), and have included fuller documentary evidence for the Chester musicians than is usual in REED volumes.

MINSTRELS AND CHESTER'S MINSTRELS

Musically Cheshire was in a different position from most of the country. The hereditary right of the heir of Dutton to license minstrels within the county was recognized to override country-wide regulations relating to itinerant musicians in 1315 and 1449, and in the relevant provisions of the Statute of Vagabonds of 1572. Minstrels within the county gained a certain degree of status from the licence, albeit still a low one. Sir Peter Leycester gave an account of how this right was granted to the Dutton family by Earl Ranulph de Blundeville following Ranulph's rescue, *c* 1210, from the Welsh at Rhuddlan by 'a tumultuous Rout of Fidlers, Players, Coblers, debauched persons, both Men and Women, out of the City of Chester' raised by his constable (see p 41). This feudal right led to the Duttons' licensing of minstrels in Chester at Midsummer. Unfortunately we have only late accounts of the ceremony, but the fact that (accepting the traditional date) the licensing system lasted for five-and-a-half centuries indicates that it was considered to be effective in controlling musical vagabondage (see pp 39–40).[43] The Duttons' rights over the minstrels were recognized by the Crown. When 'An Acte for the Punishement of Vacabondes, and for Releif of the Poore & Impotent' was passed in 1572 prohibiting unlicensed minstrels and players from wandering the country, the Duttons' right of licensing minstrels within Cheshire was confirmed, probably at the instigation of John Dutton's brother-in-law, George Calveley, parliamentary burgess for Chester in 1571 and 1572. The confirmation remained in the poor law code of 1597 and its continuation in 1601, in the latter case subject to the presentation of legal proof of the hereditary right. The city applied the 1572 legislation promptly to the unlicensed musician, as the case of Edward Johnson shows, only some eight weeks after the act was passed (see p 134).

Not only did the Dutton licences provide protection from the provisions of the Statute of Vagabonds, there is also some evidence that they were considered to confer the privilege of exclusion of other minstrels. In 1610 Mr Dutton's men accosted three viol players, who were performing in a procession of city guilds in Chester, and took their instruments away from them. Violence followed and the full facts of the case are not clear, but the musicians seem to have been the cause of the Dutton attack (see pp 364–6).

The Dutton licences were apparently valid only within the county and only available to residents of the county. Crossing county boundaries was seen as suspect behaviour in a musician, although it seems to have occurred frequently. Musicians from Derbyshire, Lancashire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and even the Isle of Ely are found in Cheshire, and travel to and from Wales and Ireland also occurred. Not all of these instances were viewed negatively, and not always the ones that one might expect. Nevertheless the majority of the musicians in the records appear to have been residents of the county, whose wanderings were confined to a smaller geographic area. They were not vagabonds in the true sense of the word although they might travel from their home parish or township. As some of the larger parishes contained many townships, a musician could have had a number of venues for performance in a large area without performing outside his own parish.

The value to the minstrels of the system was recognized by their opponents, the Puritan reformers, as John Bruen made the effort to persuade his cousin, Thomas Dutton, to include a prohibition on sabbath performance in the licences (see p 808). One of the preacher John Fletcher's complaints against Richard Metyer is that 'ever since this Metyer was p*ro*ferrd to be A pyper, hee hath bene an Arrogant Contencyous quarrelor wherby hee hath bene maymed and beatton' (see p 766). William Ashton's assertion in 1618 of 'strife for many yeres' between the pipers and the preachers has a certain amount of truth to it, although his claim that the pipers had the victory is less certain (see p 693).

In Chester minstrels seem to have been present at every ceremonial and social function. The guilds hired minstrels on their election days, on feast days, and on other holidays, and for meetings, dinners, and drinkings. They also employed minstrels in the Whitsun Plays: of the twelve guild accounts of expenditure for the plays, ten include payments to minstrels or musicians, the Bowyers' guild alone not hiring any for their pageant of the 'Scourging.' In the case of the Smiths the guild is enjoined in the post-Reformation Banns to 'Gett mynstrell*es* to that Shewe pype Tabrett and fflute' (see p 337).[44] The play manuscripts provide further evidence for the use of minstrels in the stage directions of plays of the Drapers and the Vintners.[45] Minstrels were also hired for the Midsummer Show.

Much of our information about minstrels in the county comes from attempts to control their movements, performances, and anti-social activities. The rise of sabbatarianism in the 1590s and the conscious policy of the Elizabethan church to counteract recusancy in the north-western counties by appointing clergy with more pronounced Protestant views led to the situation of a perceived war between the pipers and the preachers, and an increase in the number of prosecutions for sabbath performance. In 1603 Sir Richard Lewknor ordered the justices of the county to ensure that 'noe wakes pypeinge daunceinge, bearebeyteinge or such like bee vsed one the Sabath day' (see p 845). A typical case is that of Randal Walker who was fined 5s in 1612 for piping at Tarvin on a Sunday (see p 782). Music, along with other forms of entertainment, became a touchstone of religious sympathy. John Bruen engaged preachers to perform a non-stop preaching marathon at Tarvin wakes at some point before his death in 1625–6, to take advantage of the prohibition against any sort of entertainment during the time of divine service (see p 780). In effect his plan was aimed at destroying the traditional activities of the wakes and he set up the preaching as a form of alternative entertainment.

As noted above Puritans such as John Bruen would have preferred to ban music and the accompanying dancing entirely on Sundays, but the law required only that there be no performance during the actual time of the service. 'Piping on the sabbath' (a phrase used sometimes even when the performer was a fiddler) is found as a charge in the visitation books with increasing frequency from 1590 onwards but the plea that the performance only occurred after evensong was usually accepted. Mark Shawe of Witton, who in 1619 was presented at the bishop's visitation for fiddling on the sabbath 'as he passed through the streete Contemptiously,' was able to defend himself by proving that he had only played after evening service (see p 798). In 1597 the parishioners of Mobberley seem to have made deliberate use of this exception to bait their Puritan minister, Robert Eaton; the piper John Baxter was hired to pipe on the Sunday, and specifically near to the parsonage house (see p 731). The piper Richard Metyer went further in his Puritan-baiting. Not only did he mimic John Fletcher, the preacher at Siddington, in the alehouse, but he also, according to Fletcher, 'hath vsed to Cracke Nutt*es* [and] eate Apples, and [eate] to imitate the takinge of Tobacco in the saide Chapple in the Sermon tyme' and heckled the sermon. Metyer's career presents an extreme example of anti-Puritan behaviour (see pp 34–5, 763–72, 777–8, 795–7 for his other activities).

Even before the Statute of Vagabonds in 1572 identified minstrels – along with, in the words of a Willaston recognizance of 1580, 'fencers, enterludeplayers, bearewardes, tu*m*blers, Iugglers, and suche lyke' – as vagabonds by nature of their profession, minstrels usually had a marginal status in society (see p 789 and endnote). Licences to alehousekeepers specifically excluded the group listed above from the bona fide travellers to whom food and drink could be sold (see p 789). Quarter sessions records also contain references to pipers, fiddlers, and other minstrels in connection with disorderly alehouses. Playing in the night or at unseasonable hours was another common charge, as in Tarporley in 1616, when both Humphry Peacocke, the piper, and William Tomson, the alehousekeeper who hired him, were fined for the piping, dancing, and revelling which took place in the alehouse in the night-time (see p 779).

Not all officials however were committed to enforcing the laws against minstrels and some were actively breaking them. In 1617 Thomas Bressie, high constable of Broxton hundred, presented another constable, Richard Dod of Harthill, for keeping a piper in his alehouse on a Sunday at night during the wakes, despite knowing about the justices' orders to the contrary (see p 684). An order to the constables of Nether Peover in 1631 forbade, as well as bearbaits, all 'Musitians, Pipers, or others' (presumably other entertainers) to come to the town or lodge there, for fear of the spread of plague (see p 743). One of the constables of Darnhall was presented for keeping dancing, drinking, and tippling in his house on a Sunday at time of divine service in 1602 and for entertaining pipers on more than one occasion (see pp 663–4).

A minstrel's life, even in Cheshire with its independent minstrels' court for licensing, was a precarious and vagrant existence. The piper, William Plymley, who claimed that he could 'spend more then xx li. ayeare by his pipinge,' was either exceptional or exaggerating (see p 850). Possibly Laithwood, the piper who hanged himself on the lands of the Savage family at Frodsham in 1621–2, leaving behind no goods but his bagpipes, gives a truer image of the wealth and status that pipers might expect to attain (see p 830). It is unsurprising, although very useful for our purposes, that many minstrels seem to have taken to petty crime. The very earliest mentions of minstrels in our records are in connection with breaches of the peace, as in the case of Roger de Croxton Harper of Middlewich who in 1419 was described as a gleeman and possibly a harper in an indictment for riot (see p 721). Sabbath infringements were joined by theft, slander, assault, failure to pay child support, bigamy, wearing non-statute shoes, and numerous other crimes and misdemeanours (see Appendix 6).

Other musicians supplemented their incomes from more or less legitimate sources. The inventory of the wait William Madock shows that, in addition to musical instruments, he owned a fishing boat and nets, a brewing house, and sufficient gear to suggest that he was running a tavern; his goods had a total value of £43 18s 5d.[46] Other musicians, such as the piper Richard Metyer, kept alehouses, an occupation associated with poverty but also one in which having a resident piper was an advantage (see, for example, p 765). There are also those who are not identified as musicians but appear as performers in the records. Randal Moreton, tailor of Harthill, is presented for piping at both Bickerton and Egerton and seems to have had a regular weekly engagement at Egerton (see pp 22, 667). Thomas Croaker, saddler of Knutsford, played a cittern in his shop (see p 695). The distinction between professional and amateur musician becomes hazy at this point. Metyer and Plymley are defined in the documents as pipers, even though we have no citations of either of them actually piping. Moreton and Croaker, for whom we do have evidence of performance, are explicitly defined as having other occupations. Many musicians would have had to supplement their income by other means and those with musical ability in other occupations were able to make use of their skills as well. We can really only rely on the documents themselves to tell us when an individual was or was not a musician as such. They are sometimes quite precise as in the possibly unusual case of Agnes Rowley, who with her husband, John, was bound over to leave the city of Chester and not return for more than two days at a time. It is clearly stated that it was Agnes, not John, who was the musician. As he was a tinker, however, they were clearly itinerant (see p 151).

The strife between the minstrels and the reformers continued to the end of our period. In 1642 a group of fiddlers from Shropshire interrupted the grand jury at Chester, singing scandalous songs and scoffing at the parliament, saying that 'reformac*i*on would bee p*er*fected w*i*th vs when the divell is blind' (see pp 613–14).

WAITS AND OTHER SPONSORED MUSICIANS

Chester employed a city drummer who accompanied the Watch and Show and performed on other civic occasions. The city also employed a group of musicians, the city waits. The waits were in existence before 1540 for in that year the terms of their employment were stipulated. They were to perform every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the evening and every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday in the morning 'in suche circuite placys and Owres as hath beyn accustomed in tymes past' (see p 79). The city contracted to pay a wage and give the waits new gowns each year which were to be worn only within the city since they were an official uniform.[47]

In addition to their weekly round of duties the waits were also employed, with other musicians, to play at public events such as the Whitsun Plays and the Midsummer Show. We see them on their daily round in 1620, coming down Bridge Street as far as the Dee Bridge and, having finished their tour, drinking with a friend until it was time to go on to a private engagement for the evening (see p 452). But they must have played on other occasions although we have only rare glimpses of them. One such sighting is at the sheriffs' court in 1609, when a violent manifestation of tension among the musicians occurred (see p 364). It was possibly also the waits who provided the cornets at the opening of the assizes in 1623 (see p 469).

Two documents provide evidence of the instruments played by the waits. The inventory of goods for William Madock, one of the Chester waits, mentioned above, indicates that he owned a variety of instruments – sackbut, double curtal, two cornets, and a tenor viol (see p 296). Madock was evidently the leader of the city waits and the instruments in his personal possession were presumably used by the company. In 1591 Madock and Christopher Burton had been involved in a dispute with Alice Williams, widow of the wait Thomas Williams, over certain instruments which Alice claimed a share in as part of her inheritance. The instruments consisted of 'the how boies the Recorders the Cornet*es* and violens' (see pp 231–2). The cornets may have been the same as those that appear in Madock's inventory. The case was settled with the ownership of the instruments resting with the waits collectively, passing by survivorship to the remaining waits, and from there to the sons of Williams and Burton, who were apprentice waits at the time. The 1591 agreement also indicates that the office of wait passed through the family and that there was a system of apprenticing novices.

The brawl of 1609 is only one example of the tensions that could arise among Chester's musicians. A typical example is the trouble between the waits William Madock, Thomas Williams, William Mercer, and Christopher Burton in 1588–9 or between George Cally, John Cally, Christopher Burton, Thomas Hough, and William Madock in 1590–1 (see pp 220, 232–3). The underlying causes of these disputes are not clear but the probability is that they represent tensions of a personal, professional, and financial nature. Thomas Williams, who had been a city wait and worn the city's livery, subsequently refused to play with the other waits and even when released conditionally could not manage to continue to play with them. Significantly, while technically imprisoned for breaking his contract, he had left without licence and travelled to various engagements elsewhere, presumably on the strength of being a liveried player (see pp 361–2).

Apart from their civic duties the waits were free to undertake private engagements and were employed by a number of guilds on election days or at the dinners held for newly admitted freemen of the guild. In 1620 we see the waits returning from their civic duties and preparing to go on to a private engagement, and the various company accounts show that they were available for hire. They might on occasion play at other towns; for example they received 5s at Coventry in 1584 and 6d from Congleton in 1617–18 (see p 644).[48] They were possibly also 'the maire of Chest*ers* Mynstrell*es*' who visited Ludlow in 1544–5 and received 8d, and 'the musisioners of Chester' who received 12d when they played for Sir Richard Shuttleworth of Smithills Hall, Lancashire, on 5 January 1595/6.[49] But some waits may have found their terms of contract too restrictive and in 1613 it seems that all the waits had suddenly left the city, provoking a crisis.

Despite its restrictions the office of wait carried the security of a regular income. The 1595 petition of Christopher Burton, who had been a wait but lost that position, relates the destitution of the unemployed musician with a wife and large family to maintain and seeks restoration to his former post where 'your suppliant wilbecom most dutiful & behaue him self according to his dutie.' The petition bears the stark note 'differred.' A further sorry petition is presented the following year, by which time his wife had died (see pp 254–5).

The musical situation in Chester was complex. In 1605–6 payment was made to George Cally and his company, to the waits, and to Henry Shurlocke, a piper in Chester (see p 300). This suggests that Cally had at that time his own 'group,' possibly with a different instrumental combination. One possibility is that the usual shawm and trumpet combination of the waits could provide loud music for dancing; the piper, dance music in a different style; and the Cally company, perhaps music during the meal. Where, as often happens, only Cally is mentioned in the accounts, he probably performed solo. George Cally's brother, Robert Cally, also had his own company of musicians in 1611–12 but was mentioned alone in 1613–14 and 1616–17 (see pp 377–8, 396–7, 418–19). He, the waits, and the company led by his brother George were all hired in 1609–10, and the payment to the Callys in 1611–12 perhaps suggests that the brothers also played as a duo (see pp 354, 378). We seem, in fact, to have a fairly flexible situation in which a company requiring music might hire the waits or a local solo player such as the piper Shurlocke, or go to one of the Callys who would assemble a group for the occasion. There seems, in fact, to have been a pool of musicians in the city.

When the waits absconded in 1613 their place was taken by a consort of resident professional musicians under George Cally. The Cally or Kelly family represents something unique – a whole dynasty of musicians in the city whose various relationships and feuds, both inter-familial and with other musicians, paint a vivid picture of its musical life. A William Cally, not specifically a musician, was paid in 1544–5 for the Watch (see p 88), and from 1568 until 1624 the Callys appear regularly as musicians in various Chester records. There were five individual musicians with the surname of Cally or Kelly in Chester during that period. Edmond Cally was in the service of John Dutton in 1574–5, and in 1609 George Cally was a servant of the earl of Derby, while his brother Robert was attached to Sir John Savage. In 1609 George Cally accused his brother Robert of 'crouching' to Sir John Savage (mayor of Chester in 1607) for patronage. He also claimed to have been put in 'a paier of boults' for Thomas Williams' sake by the mayor, whose service he compared unfavourably with that of his master, the earl of Derby (see pp 168, 363). This suggests a sense of professional and social hierarchy among the various families; both Callys had risen beyond the lower status of a town wait but George was conscious of a higher position because of the lord he served. Some rivalry seems to have developed between George and Robert, for they were summoned to a reconciliation in 1599 (see p 268).

George seems to have been particularly alert to issues of status, for he successfully petitioned the assembly for admission to the freedom in 1608, claiming to have been born in the city. He was the first musician known to gain the freedom; he was admitted without making payment while the wait Thomas Fisher, who also petitioned, was turned down despite coming from an established Chester family (see pp 314–15). When the waits suddenly left Chester in 1613 George offered the services of himself and his music consort in their place, an offer which the council accepted (see p 382). Subsequent references, nevertheless, indicate that the Callys did not continue permanently as waits.

The relationship between the Callys and the waits was at times fraught. Various members of the family were involved in breaches of the peace with waits – George with Christopher Burton (see p 232) and with Thomas Hough (see p 264); Robert with Christopher Burton (see pp 267–8); John with Thomas Hough (see pp 232–3) and with William Madock (see p 233); and John and Peter with Thomas Williams (see p 227). The source of all such disputes may have been professional rivalry and competition for the market of engagements in the city. But such rivalries were abandoned when their common interest was threatened by outside competition: in the early seventeenth century a petition was made to the Innholders by 'George Calley the Right Ho*norable* the Earle of Darby his servant, and Consorte; the Waites of this

Cittie of Chester; Thomas Skinner and Rob*er*te Calley w*i*th theire company' for exclusive performance rights in the inns of the city (see p 861), and in 1615 George Cally petitioned the council as freeman and city wait for protection against the competition of incomers who were teaching music and dancing (see pp 407–8). The petition to the council, which demands a monopoly of music within the city, makes an important distinction between the professional musician who had been trained to read music and the mere minstrel who played by ear. Claiming to wish to preserve standards, it reveals the extent of the rivalry within the town. It is probable that we see in the Callys the same hereditary pattern as with the waits, but one record shows George accepting an apprentice from Lancashire in 1621 (see also p 462).

The evidence for waits or other groups of musicians in other towns is not conclusive. We lack borough accounts for all other towns except Congleton, which apparently did not have waits. Congleton did make payments to visiting musicians and even hired 'Calis the musitian' who came from Chester to play for the scholars' play in February 1620/1 and again for the townsmen's play in April 1621 (see p 647). Congleton paid for drumming to gather people for special occasions (such as rush-bearing) or community duties, and Wilmslow may also have had a town drum (see pp 628, 789). For Stockport we have no evidence of group playing beyond a few payments to fiddlers and musicians there by Henry Bradshaw (see p 806), although we do have the names of other musicians in the township. Macclesfield, although an important borough, leaves no record of musicians at all. We do however have a record of the waits of 'Maxfeild' performing at Coventry in 1623.[50] Knutsford provides some interesting material on individual musicians – including some who were not primarily performers – but has no evidence of waits.

Nantwich, on the other hand, seems to have had a number of resident musicians and very probably a consort, even if not officially employed by the town. The inventory of the goods of William Worrall, taken in 1637, mentions a bandora, 'Alferiall' (orpharion), a bass viol, and three treble viols, as well as music books (see p 741). Such a grouping, with the addition of a wind instrument such as a flute, would make up a professional mixed consort. There were several pipers (a generic term covering a variety of instruments) in the town, and one, who is specified elsewhere as a player on the pipe and tabor, was involved in an assault on William Worrall in 1631/2 (see pp 739–40). Quarrels between musicians did not preclude professional associations between them – if anything the Chester evidence has demonstrated that professional association made quarrels more likely.

Much of the evidence for musicians in Nantwich comes from the parish registers. As these do not provide direct evidence of performance, the names are listed in Appendix 6 rather than included in the documents. As so much of the evidence in the records comes from hostile sources – judicial records and Puritan polemic – the parish register evidence for Nantwich provides a useful corrective picture of musical life in Cheshire. Clearly it was possible for musicians to make a living by their music without falling foul of either the church or the law. The evidence of the Worrall inventory and the number of musicians available makes consort playing likely, but in the absence of borough records nothing can be proven.

An isolated case from Macclesfield in 1393 concerns a woman who was evidently a professional musician since the incident occurred in the street. Margaret la Symphaner evidently was so outraged by John de Plesyngton that she employed her instrument as a weapon (see p 715).

As well as possible formal groups of musicians in towns, there were also possible informal groupings. Several named musicians were charged at the same time with performing at the wakes on a certain day in a certain place, as was the case at Tarporley in 1609 (see p 778). Where a number of musicians and bearwards are listed separately in the document, it is likely that they simply were all there for the wakes and were not part of an organized group. But there are occasions when several musicians are listed together in a way that suggests a more organized group: Peter Cooke, John Cooke, George Ashton, and John Hewood, charged with piping on the sabbath at Lostock Gralam in 1618, were involved in one such case (see p 713).

As well as the various licensed or unlicensed minstrels in the county and the occasional strays from over the borders, there were also musicians whose place was established by sponsorship, either of a town or a magnate. The dean and chapter of the cathedral in 1592 entertained the earl of Essex's musicians and the Smiths and Cordwainers paid the baron of Kinderton's minstrels to entertain them in 1557 (see pp 100, 239). The Cordwainers paid the waits of Shrewsbury in 1549–50 (see p 91). The earl of Derby's trumpeter came to Congleton in 1623 (see p 652), and four trumpeters of the earl of Pembroke were paid for performing at Lyme Hall when Sir Peter Legh was in residence (see p 817).

Richard Preston (1594), who played the treble violin, represents a rare case of a visiting consort hired privately from outside the county. He said that he lived at Warrington and that he and his company were playing 'up' St Werburgh's Lane from the Eastgate towards the Northgate towards 'their hoste foxall his howse' (see p 251). Mr Foxall had seemingly approached Preston, who lived at some distance from Chester and who had brought his own company to the town to play at a private function. Since Preston handed his instrument to 'his boy,' we may assume that he had an attendant who was responsible for the instruments. Mr Hicok, the defendant, proved himself an accomplished violin player and so impressed Preston that he invited Hicok to drink with him at Foxall's house. We have no evidence of Hicok as a professional musician, so he was presumably a gifted amateur. Edward Clarke, who had completed a year's service with the Legh family of Baguley, was a musician from the Isle of Ely (see pp 320–1).

MUSICAL GENTRY

Musical ability was seen as one of the accomplishments necessary for a gentleman or lady. It is therefore interesting to note that more than one Chester gentleman did not begin to acquire the skill until he was setting out on a career that took him out of Cheshire. Thomas Wilbraham of Nantwich paid Mr Handy for music lessons in 1613–14, following his attendance at Oxford (1612) and his admission to the Inns of Court (May 1613). In July 1614 he went to France and lent his viol to his cousin until his return (see p 836). Peter Moreton, writing to his father before his departure for Italy in the service of Lord and Lady Feilding, expressed his wish to learn music if he could make his allowance stretch to it (see p 827). Many gentry inventories included musical instruments and the accounts of John Leche and the will of Francis Fitton show that instruments were lent within the family circle (see pp 813–16). In her will of 1630 Lucy Gobert left to her grand-daughter Lucy Barrington 'my Chist or sett of Six Violls' (see p 13). The pair of virginals listed in the 1617 inventory of James Dowson, master of the King's School in Chester, attest to his professional interest in music; significantly he describes himself as 'gentleman' (see p 421).

Lutes, virginals, and viols were the most common gentry instruments but harps, bandores, citterns, gitterns, recorders, and kits are also mentioned, and even an 'Irishe harpe.' Possibly the most complex set of instruments was the Fitton collection, which consisted of a set of viols da gamba, a set of recorders, a 'great Syterne,' lute, and pair of virginals, all of which were left with Francis Fitton as security for a loan. They were subsequently lent to Francis Fitton's brother-in-law, Sir John Danvers, and ultimately the viols were lost when Sir John's son, Sir Charles, was attainted and executed for his part in the earl of Essex's rebellion (see p 814). The great cittern itself is either an unusually early (1608) example of the classification of citterns by size or an indicator that the cittern in question was a much older French-style cittern, no longer fashionable in England at the time of the record.

CHURCH MUSIC

Although church music as such falls outside the scope of this study, it is important to note the role that St Werburgh's Abbey, later Chester Cathedral, played as a centre for music. That it provided a high level of musical training is seen in two indentures from the early sixteenth century. In the first, in 1503, the abbot of Rushen Abbey in the Isle of Man agreed to pay 13s 4d annually for six years so that John Darse could study music with William Perk of Chester, with a view to taking up the post of precentor at Rushen Abbey and teaching music there.[51] William Perk was apparently the precentor of St Werburgh's. In 1518 the abbey hired John Bircheley, a secular clerk of London, specifically to teach the brethren their music, to instruct the boy choristers, to play the organs, and to arrange the music for the services. Possibly not all the instruction was to be in sacred music, for among Bircheley's duties was the teaching of the brethren 'to sett songes yf thay be dysposed to gif theymsellffe therunto.' The document also distinguishes between 'Children for the Chapell' and 'other scolars of the place that haue or shall haue thaire fyndyng within the monast*er*ye aforsaid,' suggesting perhaps that the children of members of the community might also be instructed at the monastery (see pp 67–8).

Robert White, master of the choristers at Chester Cathedral from 1567 to 1569, was not only a composer of national stature but may also have taken the part of Simeon in the Smiths' play of 'The Purification; Christ Before the Doctors.'[52] Francis Pilkington, lutenist and composer, who dedicated various volumes of his musical works to members of the Cheshire gentry, was a minor canon, singingman, and precentor at Chester Cathedral, as well as holding various livings in and around the city (see pp 1060–1, endnote to Baroness Newton, *The House of Lyme* pp 70–1, 75). Choristers from the cathedral performed in the Whitsun Plays in the later part of the sixteenth century and the cathedral treasurers' accounts list payments to musicians at their dinners, presumably one of the groups such as the waits or the Callys' consorts (see pp 205, 614). The will of James Miller, precentor at the cathedral and rector of St Michael's Church in the city, dated 1617, shows that he owned a collection of music, both sacred and secular; his copy of the Chester plays, BL: Harley MS 2124 of 1607, includes a setting of the 'Gloria' in 'The Shepherds' which he may have composed (see p 430).

Singingmen, as members of the cathedral choir, fall outside the usual scope of the REED survey but, as the case of Pilkington shows, they could also be involved in secular music-making. The payment to a singing man for singing throughout the Christmas season in 1555 suggests that he did more than the usual seasonal services (see Appendix 6). The cathedral treasurers made payments to singingmen travelling through Chester, usually on their way to or from Ireland.[53] That these singingmen could and did become objects of charity and were listed amongst the 'paupers' suggests that they were not so far removed from the secular minstrels at the lower end of the social scale. At that level musical performance may not have been confined to church services.

Seasonal Customs

CHRISTMAS WATCH

Chester's annual Christmas Watch is supposed to have started in the time of William the Conqueror.[54] David Rogers reports that the Welsh, being the barbarians that they were, were so incensed by the peace enjoyed by the Normans during Christmas that they attacked the city. Subsequently an annual watch, instituted for a three-day period, required that the possessors of lands originally held from the Normans provide armoured watchmen at the Christmas season (see pp 440–1). Although Rogers asserts that the Christmas Watch was intended to protect the city from thieves, unruly persons, and the like, it seems equally clear that it developed as a ceremonial procession of the mayor and his attendants through the city and an occasion for drinking and eating. The Watch first heard a speech of commission by the mayor which set out the origin of the custom and the duties of the Watch. A copy of such a speech survives from Christmas 1584. Robert Brerewood, the mayor, was illiterate but memorized the speech, which had been written for him by the clerk to the Pentice, William Knight (see p 203).

When Richard Dutton was mayor of Chester in 1567–8 he won praise from an annalist because 'he kepte a verye worthy howse, for all Comers dureinge all the tyme of Christmas, with a lorde of misrule and other pastymes in his cittye' (see p 120).[55] Christmas was evidently a time of generous conviviality and concern for public order prompted a resolution of Chester's council in 1555. It had become customary for 'the worshipfull' to hold breakfasts before divine service on Christmas Day, resulting in day-long disorder; the hosts are encouraged to provide such breakfasts on other days instead. The resolution also prohibits citizens from going about mumming, 'ther fayse*s* being cou*er*yd or disgysed' (see p 99).

SHROVETIDE HOMAGES

The origins of the homages at Shrovetide in Chester, which the Merchant Drapers received from the Cordwainers, Saddlers, and recently married couples, are obscure. Alan Fletcher notes that Dublin had a Shrovetide custom of 'bearing the balls' by *c* 1462, which he suggests may have been the origin of Chester's custom, given the strong trading links between the two cities and the early date of the Dublin record. Unfortunately the Dublin custom is never fully described.[56] The earliest references to Chester's homages are contained in Mayor Henry Gee's ordinance of 1540 which altered these ancient customs (see pp 75–7); this document, however, appears to commingle two separate actions. It has a long preamble extolling the virtues of archery and it would appear that the intent is to recommend archery as a substitute for the old homages; however the document completely ignores archery and goes on to substitute a foot race for the Cordwainers' football game and a horse race for the Saddlers' homage, and to add the presentation of glaives or arrows of silver by married persons. It is possible that the disquisition on archery was either a preamble to an earlier amendment of the Drapers' homages, or that it was part of the document that instituted the sheriffs' breakfast shoot in 1511–12, but which was joined to Mayor Gee's ordinance when the assembly book was newly copied from the debris of an older book. Indeed the opening folios of Gee's assembly book are fragmentary and disordered. In any event the only connection between archery and the Drapers' homages is the presentation of silver arrows by the Cordwainers and married persons. These homages continued until a disagreement between the Cordwainers and Saddlers in the early seventeenth century caused a series of actions to be taken one against the other over who was to have precedence in making the homages. The conflict was ultimately resolved by the mayor and council in 1626, when the council agreed that the Cordwainers were to be called before the Saddlers; in addition the council stated the obligations of each guild and entered the proclamations in the assembly book (see pp 494–6).

Although the ordinance does not offer any explanation, it is possible to make some conjectures about the origin of these customs. It is probable that the homage of the married persons is a later addition to the custom because they are not mentioned in the preamble to the 1540 ordinance and because they do not enter into the seventeenth century dispute. Furthermore, since the council in 1626 examined the precepts of the Cordwainers' and Saddlers' companies and decided that the Cordwainers ought to have precedence, we can surmise that the Cordwainers had some kind of priority over the Saddlers. It is possible therefore that the custom arose as a consequence of the Cordwainers and Saddlers separating themselves from the guild merchant or that they were the earliest artisans to create guilds for their craftsmen. Originally the guild merchant was composed only of merchants; other companies were formed by a royal grant of a charter or, in the sixteenth century, by the city's grant of a charter. The homages to the Merchant Drapers, therefore, may be token obligations made as a consequence of the Cordwainers and Saddlers being recognized as guilds separate from the guild merchant.

Mayor Gee's rationale for altering the customs is a humanist one: for unruly games he would substitute 'profitable exercises.' According to chroniclers and antiquarians the Cordwainers' football game had become so harmful and injurious to the participants that it was thought better to substitute a foot race. Apparently the football game was initiated by someone being given the ball on the Roodee outside Watergate. He ran as fast as possible because if he reached the Pentice in the centre of the city, he won. However the 'rules' of the game allowed the other participants to do anything they thought of to wrest the ball from the handler.

SHERIFFS' BREAKFAST

On the Monday of Easter week, known as Black Monday, the sheriffs assembled two teams and competed in an archery contest on the Roodee, watched by the mayor and aldermen. The participants then processed back into the city for a breakfast of calves' heads and bacon. Because of the breakfast menu the event was also known as the calves' head feast. It was instituted by the sheriffs in the mayoralty of Thomas Smith, 1511–12. The rationale for the event is not stated; Alan Fletcher notes that Dublin held a muster on Black Monday and suggests that this may have provided Chester with its tradition, though the two activities appear to have been different.[57] The contest should be seen in the context of Chester's development of its civic activities during the early sixteenth century, including the Whitsun Plays, the Midsummer Show, and the revised Shrovetide Homages (see pp 66, 346).

ST GEORGE'S DAY

During the life of the Whitsun Play cycle the guilds of Chester used to ride the Banns on St George's Day. There is no evidence that any other kind of activity occurred in the city on that day until 1610, when a former sheriff, Robert Amery, instituted the St George's Day race. To initiate the custom he also produced a triumph in honour of the prince of Wales. The documents in this volume list the individual shows which made up the triumph, and give some impression of its visually spectacular nature (see pp 351–3). The text, by an otherwise unknown Chester poet, Mr Davies, was published. It indicates that the event began with a man climbing St Peter's spire with a flag of St George and, once at the top, beating a drum, firing a gun, brandishing a sword, and performing a handstand.[58] Since the text instructs the participants to move to the Roodee after the shows for the horse race, it may be that the shows themselves were not presented there, although it is difficult to see how some of the more elaborate episodes might have been presented within the confines of the street. Though most of the text consists of formal speeches, the triumph also features a mimetic battle with a dragon and an altercation between Envy and Love.[59]

The St George's Day race proved an enduring event in the city's customary calendar and regulations for the race and the contributions by the city's companies towards the cost of the cup which was its prize occur regularly up to and beyond 1642 (see pp 349–50, 474–5, 485; see also 'Horseracing' below).

MAY GAMES

William Hinde quotes John Bruen of Bruen Stapleford as saying that in his youth: 'The holy Sabbaths of the Lord were wholly spent, in all places about us, in May-poles and May-games, Pipings and Dancings' (see p 808). Although this comment is the complaint of a convinced Puritan, our records lend some credibility to it, although we found fewer recorded instances of May games than of rush-bearings and very few references to maypoles themselves. It may however be significant that it was a group of John Bruen's servants who in 1603 cast down what is described as 'an old maypole' at the village of Ashton by Tarvin, together with some crosses including one called the piper's cross. The destruction took place on 'may even,' presumably 30 April rather than the evening of May Day itself, and the reason was said to be that 'they sawe much abuse of these thinges' (see p 781). They denied however that they had been set to undertake this destruction and claimed it as a spontaneous act. Probably the most widely known maypole, because it served also as a landmark and boundary, was at Handbridge, a suburb of Chester south of the River Dee. The interpretation of the many references seems complicated by the possibility that there was an inn called 'The Maypole' at Handbridge and it is not always clear which is meant. But the revelry of John Garfield and his friends in 1612 leaves no doubt that a maypole was standing in Handbridge in the early seventeenth century (see pp 389–90).

Like other festive activities May games were condemned by Puritans partly because they were associated with recusancy and partly because they formed a component of the 'licentious' activities at town wakes. At Little Budworth in 1595 a protracted Star Chamber case between John Egerton and John and Hugh Starkie claimed that the Starkies had supported the constables in their decision to hold the wakes, being, as Mr Egerton puts it, 'greatly affected & sup*er*sticiously ⟨..⟩clyned to the obs*er*vinge & kepinge of the same wakes & such other lyke vayne & abolished Trashe' (see pp 696–7). One of the constables, Hugh Holbrooke, was actively involved in disorderly activities associated with the wakes, as he followed a group of 'Rouges and evyll disposed p*er*sons' who danced into Little Budworth 'having in ther hand*es* greene boughes resembling Maygames' (see p 711). It was not only secular figures who were attracted to May games. In 1621 the curate of Wybunbury, George Nicholson, was charged in the visitations with going to an ale in the afternoon of the previous Whit Monday (thus neglecting the reading of afternoon prayers) to see a May game (see p 803).

May games were not confined to the month of May. Similar entertainments took place at other times in the summer. At Bunbury in 1620 a group of 'games' with similarities to those of Little Budworth were objected to. They involved a man dressed in woman's apparel, followed by 'a great trayne of rude people tumultuously gaddinge after him' who brought a present of cherries to the 'Ladye of the game' as she sat on the church hill. The second involved two men dressed like women and 'dansing like women' after a fiddler. Two other men were disguised and danced with naked swords, again accompanied by a crowd. The third involved a crowd carrying a large garland 'decked with flours ribband*es* tinsell & scarfes.' Money had been collected and a piper hired, and dancing took place 'promiscuously & lasiviously about Thomas Sym*me* (as about a maypole)' (see p 32).

Finally there is a deposition in the consistory court of Cheshire, dated 11 May 1621, which claims that Robert Withers was 'a pip*er* a Com*m*on scoffer and Iester' who disguised himself and often played the part of 'a foole or Iester Carrieinge in his hand a bauble att May games' (see p 18).

MIDSUMMER SHOW

Occasional payments in the Chester accounts under 23 June, not included in this collection, relate to the gathering of fuel for a bonfire. The custom of Midsummer bonfires is attested elsewhere in the country and the fact that accounts are sporadic in Chester suggests that it was perhaps an optional rather than a customary activity, though evidently of a seasonal and popular kind. In that respect it differs from the bonfires and triumphs which took place to celebrate the prince's return in 1617/18.

Although Chester's Midsummer Show is said to have begun during the mayoralty of Richard Goodman in 1499, we know virtually nothing about it until 1564, when an agreement was made between the stewards of the Painters' company, Thomas Poole and Robert Hallwood, and the city to provide various 'ornament*es*' for the Show 'as the seid wache here to fore hathe ben set furth' (see p 111). Nevertheless it is probably not mere coincidence that the city should institute a show to coincide with the licensing of the minstrels, the Midsummer fair, and the absence of the cycle plays that year. The Midsummer activities could not help but increase the attractiveness – and the profit – of the fair. The Midsummer Show seems to have included morris dancers and several large 'animals' – the dragon, the elephant, the mayor's mount, and in later years camels, antelopes, and the like, all provided by the city – and riders for the individual guilds.

Many guilds rode with characters from the cycle plays; thus the Painters rode with their shepherds on stilts (see p 180), the Smiths with Simeon (see p 97), the Cordwainers with Mary Magdalene and occasionally Judas (see p 113). In two cases – the Cappers and the Innkeepers – the Show accounts cast further light on what were evidently features of the plays also. The Cappers were responsible for play 5, which includes Balaam's talking ass. This was evidently a popular feature, since the post-Reformation Banns enjoin the guild to 'Make the Asse to speake and sett hit out lyuelye' (see p 336). The ass also featured in the Show. Termed 'the beast,' the structure was 'dressed' and 'carried.' A new 'beast' was made in 1610, presumably for that year's Show, and although amalgamated in the accounts with the cost of a new banner, the expense was evidently great (see pp 355–6). The accounts chart the difficulties experienced by the Cappers in paying for the Show; in 1602 their contribution was transferred to the Bricklayers but problems about the collaboration and contributions of the companies continue beyond our period (see p 281). Significantly in 1603 the collaboration of the three trades in the production of the Whitsun Plays is still recorded alongside the ongoing collaboration in the show (see p 286).

The Innkeepers, with the Cooks, were responsible for play 17, 'The Harrowing of Hell,' which concludes in the earliest play manuscripts with the entry into hell of the dishonest Ale-wife of Chester. This figure also appears in the Show, in a display called 'Cups and Cannes,' a show which was attacked by Puritan preachers. Among the Innkeepers' records are pages from an account book which add further information. The accounts for 1613–14 allow us to reconstruct that show in more detail (see pp 398–9). They itemize payments for two painted suits for the devils and 'to him that Rid in womans Apparrell' and 'to him that Rid to throwe graynes.' The grains were purchased by a man who was also paid to serve one of the riders, presumably the Ale-wife; a saddle with panniers was provided. The cups were purchased and were evidently broken with the iron-bound cane mentioned in the accounts. Others were paid for gathering up the broken cups. The same accounts include payment for the company's boy, his clothes, and attendants. While this may be a conflation of two years' accounts, the possibility remains that in 1613–14 the company presented two very different shows, at significant expense. This is the latest record we have of the 'Cups and Cannes' feature. It is also notable that the ale-wives of the city are listed as a separate group contributing towards the Show expenses during successive years.

The Midsummer Show continued in Chester, despite the objections of preachers, with occasional interruptions, to the end of our period, when it stopped 'by reson of these troublesome times' as stated in a 1643–4 Mayors List entry.[60] It was briefly revived after the Restoration but was finally abolished in 1678 (see below, p lxxxii).

OCCASIONAL CIVIC CELEBRATIONS

Records relating to two other civic activities can be mentioned here. In 1506, by the so-called Great Charter, the mayor of Chester was granted the right to a civic sword, to be borne before him point upwards (except in the presence of the monarch or the monarch's representative).[61] Since the earl's symbol of authority was also a sword, this concession had added significance. But in 1606–7 the right of the mayor to have the sword borne before him into the cathedral was challenged, providing a fascinating example of the symbolic power of civic ceremony (see pp 305–6). The other activity is the occasional walking of the bounds of the city, in which not only the most prominent citizens but also the scholars of the King's School participated.

One anomalous event, not in this edition, is some sort of topping-out ceremony from 1489–90 which was felt worthy of record by later annalists: 'This yeare St Peters Steeple was pointed, & by ye Parson & others a goose was eaten upon the top thereof and part Cast into ye 4 streetes.'[62]

Household Entertainments

Evidence of pastimes in the homes of the gentry is sparse and must be inferred from the occasional references to musical instruments in wills and inventories (see above, pp lxv–lxvi). It is therefore tantalizing that Lady Newton, drawing on a source now lost in her account of the Legh family, writes in some detail with quotations about the music and theatricals provided at Lyme Hall when visitors came. She mentions the players of Lord Chandos (who performed three plays), Lord Derby's players, and 'my Lo*rd* of Lincoln's players,' as well as trumpeters and a piper, and various speciality acts such as a man with a dancing horse and tumblers. She also affirms that Sir Peter Legh kept a fool and his own piper who had his own costume (see p 817). The entries are unfortunately undated, but since they refer to Sir Peter they must relate to the period 1590–1635/6, and possibly particularly to the period after 1598, when he was knighted.[63] The Legh family also owned land in Lancashire and intermarried with a number of Lancashire families. Margery, daughter of an earlier Sir Peter Legh, married first Robert Barton of Smithills and after his death Sir Richard Shuttleworth of Smithills, and records from Lancashire indicate that the musicians of her nephew Sir Peter Legh were at Smithills in January 1583/4 and his players there in 1588.[64] Smithills is on the other side of Manchester from Lyme, and on a direct road to the Leghs' residence at Bradley Hall.[65]

Household accounts for other families are largely lacking but a record in the Malpas parish registers of the burial of Thomas Bosewell on 27 January 1572/3, 'Beynge the foole of the hall,' suggests that possibly the Breretons of Shocklach, who occupied the 'Old Hall' at Malpas in the sixteenth century, kept a fool.[66] Hinde, in his *A Faithfull Remonstrance*, certainly implies that household fools were not uncommon, contrasting Bruen's behaviour with those 'who like none so well, as a knave to attend them, a flatterer to humour them, and a foole to make them merry at their meate' (see p 811). The picture evoked is of a feudal lord surrounded by attendants, courtiers, and entertainers. Evidence from other REED volumes indicates that other

Cheshire families did, at various times, sponsor entertainers. The 'histrionibus' of 'magister delves & magister calveley' received 4d at Shrewsbury in 1527–8.[67] Mr Delves (later Sir Henry Delves) had his seat at Doddington and Mr Calveley was probably Sir George Calveley of Lea, near Chester.[68] Mr 'tuttones' musicians received 12d at Smithills in 1587.[69] William Tutton may have been William Tatton of Wythenshawe (*c* 1544–1611), baron of the Exchequer from 1562–3 to 1594–5, but a case could also be made for one of the Duttons, perhaps John Dutton of Dutton. Players associated with a 'Mr Dutton' were at Coventry in 1592.[70] The Warrens of Poynton in Cheshire and Woodplumpton in Lancashire may have been the sponsors of musicians and 'men' who performed at Gawthorpe Hall and Dunkenhalgh on several occasions between 1611 and 1618.[71] In Shropshire 'ye Breretons' musicians performed at Needham House in 1639–40.[72] The Breretons would have been the Brereton family of Brereton, Cheshire.

Royal and Noble Visits

REED does not include documents detailing the civic reception of royal and noble personages unless these expressly involve drama or other aspects of performance, such as the production of the 'Assumption of the Virgin' witnessed by Prince Arthur on his visit to Chester in 1498–9 or the plays performed at the visit of the earl of Derby and his son to the city in 1578. Nevertheless public receptions of royal or noble visitors constitute a form of theatre in themselves and in Appendix 2 we list those visits where our records suggest some form of public display.

Chester was traditionally the site of early major royal occasions. In 603, according to Hardyng's *Chronicle* and Mayors List 33 which cites Hardyng, the Welsh held their parliament at Chester in 603 at which time Cadwan was inaugurated or crowned king. Cadwan's son and successor, Cadwall, was crowned at Chester in 616 'after his father had raigned 13 yeares.' No details of these ceremonies are given in either Hardyng or the Mayors List, nor are there any for the visit of King Aethelwulf to Chester, presumably in 834 or thereabouts, when he 'was Crowned … in most Royall manner.'[73] King Edgar's 'pompious showe' in 973, in which he was rowed in a barge on the River Dee at Chester by nine kings, has been discussed above (see above, p xvii).[74] Such traditions seem accepted by modern historians as further evidence of the continuing importance of the town as a regional capital in the pre-Conquest period.[75]

In the post-Conquest period our records indicate a number of royal or noble visits, including those by Queen Margaret, who came on progress in 1453–4; Henry VII and his queen, with his stepfather and mother (the 10th earl and countess of Derby), who stayed at Chester and went hunting at Hawarden in 1494–5; the earl of Leicester in 1584; and the earl of Essex in 1598/9.[76] Unfortunately the records rarely record details of such visits. The earls of Chester sometimes made public visits to the city. In 1476–7 Prince Edward, son of Edward IV, came to Chester Castle with a retinue of noblemen and was 'convayed to the castle w*i*th great triumph.'[77] The earls of Derby, who held the office of chamberlain of Cheshire until 1564 when it was transferred to Robert Dudley, and others of the Stanley family frequently visited Chester, often accompanied by an impressive retinue. Such visits served a political purpose. The earls of Derby used such visits to attempt, not always successfully, to assert their authority within the city. The visit of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII, noted above, was one occasion in a memorable series of events during Richard Goodman's mayoralty of 1498–9 which, according to annalists, included the completion of the north side of the Pentice and the inauguration of the Midsummer Show (see p 64).

By way of example of what the city might prepare for such occasions, we include in Appendix 2 the documents relating to the visit of Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester and chamberlain of Cheshire, in 1583–4 (see pp 869–74). This was the only time that Dudley visited Chester; a further projected visit in 1588, for which the council planned, was prevented by Dudley's death that year. Our records for the 1583–4 visit are unusually full. Great crowds were expected to turn out to see the man whom one annalist describes as 'a great favorite of Queen Elizabeth,' so a special armed watch was set for the two nights of his stay (see p 871).[78] The earl was attended by a number of nobility and a large mounted retinue and was received by the mayor and companies in their livery at the High Cross, where he heard a fulsome speech of welcome (which gave offence through an unfortunate lapse of memory by the speaker, who directed the speech to the earl of Derby instead of Dudley) (see p 874). The council was sensitive to the attitude of their visitor and, on learning that Dudley did not like banquets, they cancelled the usual banquet held in the Pentice on such occasions and commuted the money that they had allocated for the banquet towards a gilt cup valued at £18 and 40 angels (see p 870). The earl stayed with the bishop of Chester at the bishop's palace and dined, presumably privately, with the mayor.

Such visits were expensive. Dudley's visit was financed by loans from the aldermen, sheriffs, and sheriffs' peers (BL: Harley MS 1989, f 27), but the mayor still had not repaid the loan after his office had ended (BL: Harley MS 2173, f 90). When James I came to Chester on a brief visit in 1617, an annalist comments on the burdens that fell upon the citizens, particularly the poor, who had to finance the occasion by a compulsory levy (CCALS: ZCR 469/542, f [40], CCALS: ZCR 60/83, ff 28v–9).

Animal Sports

BEARBAITING AND BULLBAITING

The Bear Inn at Nantwich lived up to its name: during the Great Fire in 1583, John Seckerston, owner of the inn, let loose the four adult bears which he kept in his stables, thereby adding considerably to the confusion and panic of the fire (see p 734). Seckerston was also a breeder of, or at least a trader in, bears, as another document records the purchase of a bear cub from him (see p 733). Evidence from other REED volumes shows that the earl of Derby had a bearward named John Sekerton, Sackarston, or Sackerson and a 'Sekurton the berward' appears in the *Shropshire* volume.[79]

The borough accounts for Congleton mention a variety of visiting bearwards, including the bearwards of Sir John Holcroft, Sir Richard Hoghton of Hoghton Tower, and James I (see pp 617, 621, 653). The accounts also indicate the possibility of a town bearward at Northwich, who was paid by Congleton in 1635–6 (see pp 751–3). Northwich certainly had a bearward resident in the town earlier in the century, as there are a number of complaints about Peter Brome's bears, which were alleged to have killed two people there (see pp 750–1). The bearward of Northwich is also recorded at Shrewsbury in 1542–3, indicating a continuity of bearwards rather than a single individual.[80] The town of Middlewich had further complaints to make about Peter Brome in 1616 which provide a list of the standard objections to bearbaiting at the time: the gathering of disorderly people, resulting in both brawls and accidents, death from attack by the bears, and the smell of the carrion provided for the bears. In addition, when Brome baited his bears in the marketplace at Middlewich, stalls were thrown down and goods broken by the crowd (see pp 724–5).

Congleton had a reputation for bearbaiting and went to some lengths to protect it, sending messengers to Knutsford and Bunbury to ensure that the bearwards got to the Congleton bearbait (see pp 639, 653). On one occasion they sent a messenger as far afield as Lancashire, to hire 'Whetstone,' probably one of the bearbaiting family of Whytstone of Ormskirk (see p 656).[81]

Bearbaiting was a popular sport in Cheshire, particularly in the east of the county. The Chester records provide considerably less evidence for bearbaiting than those of Congleton, although in 1605–6 the constables of Chester Castle were charged with allowing a bearbait within the castle during the previous Easter week (see p 298), and in October 1610 'Shermadyne' baited his bears at the High Cross (see p 367). Chester did have a bearbaiting history, as the name 'Berwardes streete' in an antiquarian list of Chester street names during the reign of Edward III indicates.[82]

The name Shermadyne or Shelmerdyne (in various spellings) occurs in the Congleton records as well, with ten instances specifying bearbaiting. There is a hiatus in his appearances between 1609 and 1621, and the first name 'Raphe' appears after this period. Evidence from Coventry helps to fill in the missing years: a Raphe Shelmadyne, described as the king's bearward, performed there on 22 May 1617.[83] It may be that the Shelmerdynes were a bearbaiting family, similar to the Whytstones of Ormskirk. Other bearwards, such as William Kelsall and John Boland, appear in more than one place. Boland is specified in one document as a native of Whitchurch, Shropshire, and is charged with wandering from place to place (see pp 30–1). He was also unusual in using both bears and bulls at Congleton in 1622/3 (see p 650).

Bearbaiting was increasingly frowned upon by the authorities, and vigorously opposed by the preachers. The authorities saw bearbaits as opportunities for riot, sedition, and the spread of plague. The preachers saw them as opportunities for debauchery and linked them particularly with wakes, which they judged to be recusant. Edward Burghall, author of Providence Improved, was particularly vehement against the bearbaits at Bunbury wakes. He tells with relish of Robinson, the bearward, who baited his bears at Bunbury and was torn apart by one of them. Burghall also laments that not only did the preaching by William Hinde against bearbaiting have no effect at Bunbury but the collapse of the churchyard wall on the spectators in two successive years also did not decrease the enthusiasm for the sport. He attributes the lack of casualties when the wall collapsed to God's patience but clearly would have preferred a few more injuries (see p 33).

The authorities increasingly attempted to suppress bearbaits, especially at unlicensed alehouses, in the seventeenth century. At Chester Christopher Goodman was writing to the earl of Derby as early as 1583, asking him to intervene with the mayor and council to prevent bearwards, players, minstrels, and tumblers coming to Chester (see p 199). The city did order in 1596–7 that no civic payment for bearbaits or plays should be made and forbade anyone leaving the liberties of the city to attend a play or bearbait. One of the reasons that they gave is that the magistrates had been openly preached against for permitting bearbaits (see p 259).

The possibility of the spread of plague was one of the concerns expressed by the authorities when banning bearbaits, although it is clear from the wording of an order of 1631 that they were also thinking of bearwards as undesirable in themselves, 'idle, licentious, and dissolute p*er*sons, who take liberty to themselves to wander throughout all parts of the kingdome' (see p 743). Not all people accepted the orders of the magistrates or the sermons of the preachers. At Wilmslow, when the bearward William Baxter was put in the stocks upon a warrant from the justices of the peace, several of the townspeople resisted. The bearward was provided with ale and entertainment (in the form of drumming) during his time in the stocks and protected by the 'outdaring manner' of Henry Orrell and William Kelsall from any abuse that might otherwise have occurred. Orrell is accused of using seditious words, in that he questioned the right of the justices to impose the law on the town, and offered to fight them. The stocks were broken and partly removed during the night, which Orrell had earlier threatened to do. His reply to the constable's attempts to quiet him sums up the attitude of the bearward's supporters: 'wee will not bee restrained: wee will haue our pastimes in the Towne' (see pp 790–4).

Enforcing the justices' warrants could be difficult. At Northwich in 1636 William Venables, one of the constables, arrested a stranger who said he had come to see the bearbait and would have put him in the stocks if the other constable had not rescued him by force. Venables also complained that songs were sung about him in an illegal alehouse, to the effect that 'The Constable ere next Assises shall loose both his eares/ ffor serving a warrant vpon my L*or*d Strang his beares' (see p 752). Not only did Venables have to contend with both lack of support and active opposition from his fellow constable and abuse and threats from his townsmen, but he also ran the risk of being punished by the justices if he did not enforce their warrant and of offending a powerful local magnate if he did.

Bullbaiting appears less frequently in the records than bearbaiting, possibly because it was less controversial. Henry Hardware II, the mayor of Chester in 1599–1600, who had the bull-ring at Chester taken up as well as suppressing other traditional activities, was described as a 'godly zealous man,' but nevertheless 'gott ill will Amonge the Com*m*ons' (see p 272). Despite this, bullbaiting was still occurring at Chester in 1602, in 'the newe rowe over the buchers' (see p 289), and in 1613 the bull-ring 'neere vnto the hie Cros⟨..⟩' is mentioned (see p 444). Several of the references to bullbaits from this period come in court documents: bullbaiting and bearbaiting both provided opportunities for pickpockets and other petty criminals.

By the 1620s the official attitude towards bullbaiting in Chester seems to have improved. On 2 October 1620 there was a formal bullbait before the mayor and council to mark the completion of the mayor's term of office. The butchers brought their bull to the bull-ring by the High Cross 'Accordinge to Annciente custome before tym⟨.⟩ vsd w*i*thin this Cittye' (see p 444). Unfortunately a fight broke out which the constables were not able to control. The mayor came down from the Pentice to try to keep the peace but was ignored by the combatants.

He finally resorted to hitting them with his staff of office, which was broken in the fray, as was the sheriff's staff and the crier's mace. Arrests and punishment followed, and on 5 October the butchers made amends by having a second bullbait, which was successful. A banquet was held after the bullbait and this practice seems to have been followed in other years, as there are payments in the treasurers' accounts of 1625–6 for 40s for a banquet after the bullbait on 'Mondaye after Michaells daye' (see p 497).

Congleton makes few references to bullbaiting as such, but has several payments for construction of the bull-ring in 1613–14 (see p 638). The bull-ring was probably also used for bearbaits, at least the ones sanctioned by the town. Bullbaiting, like bearbaiting and other crowd activities, was banned during times of plague (see p 743; see also pp 294–6).

COCKFIGHTING

Cockfighting was also a popular sport in Cheshire and one which did not require as much preparation or expense to arrange as bearbaiting or bullbaiting. Both Chester and Congleton had cockpits, and the Congleton accounts list regular payments for repairs to theirs (eg, pp 616, 622–6, 633, 657–8). Indeed repairs to the Congleton cockpit are so frequent that it must have been used extensively. In addition to official town cockpits, cockfights were arranged in inns and alehouses. Nantwich's Cock Inn, like its Bear Inn, might have received its name from the sport favoured there (see p 734). Records mention cockfights at Christleton, Malpas, Sandbach, and Wybunbury (see pp 615, 718, 757, 803).

Cockfighting, to a greater extent than bearbaiting, appealed to the gentry. The 'Great Cockfight' at Congleton was an occasion on which the town spent money entertaining local gentry, both male and female (see pp 623, 625, 627). The Congleton Great Cockfight sometimes involved bearbaiting as well (see pp 625, 629). The bearbaiting seems to have superseded the cockfighting in 1602–3, as it is referred to as the Great Bearbait in that year. A Mayors List for Chester records that in February 1619/20, when the new cockpit was built near St John's Church and the river, it was paid for by the earl of Derby 'for his honour & his honorable and good frends pleasures,' and that, at the inaugural week-long cockfight in March of the same year, 'verye many honorable men & knight*es* and gent*lemen*' attended (see p 444). William Booth of Dunham Massey left his fighting cocks and hens to three of his cousins in 1579 (see p 805), and the bailiffs' accounts for Frodsham manor record expenses of 44s for the breeding and keeping of fighting cocks for Sir Thomas Savage in 1623 (see p 831). Three separate letters to Sir Peter Legh of Lyme mention cockfighting and it is evident that gentlemen travelled some distance to attend cockfights. An undated letter from Anthony St John is almost entirely taken up with cockfighting news; he apologizes that he 'cannot wright much by reason of ower [egg⟨…⟩s] egernes in followinge the teaint whilest it is whot' (see p 818). Either he was distracted from his letter by the excitement of the cockfight or he had an injured hand as a result of it.

Cockfighting involved gambling and this was sometimes a matter of concern. In 1589/90 Roger Bruche of Lancashire entered into an agreement with Sir Peter Legh which was clearly intended to protect Bruche from gambling too much. He specifically undertook not to bet more than 2s per battle on any cockfight, twice as much as he was allowed to bet on games such as tables or bowls (see pp 816–17). Arthur Buckley's ability to bowl and attend cockfights in 1634 was cited by the churchwardens of Witton as evidence that he was financially able to support his daughter and grandchildren, who would otherwise become a charge to the parish (see pp 798–9). Richard Allen, writing to Sir Thomas Aston in 1641 about Arthur Aston, noted that he 'was growen verie heighe & wold not be ruled & neglected his book & wold goe a shooting & Cockfieghtinge' and advised Sir Thomas to 'take thought*es* to keepe him vnder' (see p 804).

HORSERACING

Reference has already been made above (see p lxix) to the St George's Day race in Chester. In a letter of 1641 Richard Allen assesses the chances of the mounts and riders in that race to come and also in 'ffarne race' (see p 805). The latter refers to the race established at Farndon in 1631/2 under the patronage of Viscount Cholmondeley and other gentlemen (see pp 674–8). Although the Puritans also opposed horseracing (Bruen's biographer Hinde rails against the cruelty involved, see pp 809–10), it remained a popular gentleman's sport. It would appear that Farndon races were disrupted during the Civil War, as much of our information comes from an enquiry in 1651 which sought to find out the exact rules of the race and who was responsible for providing the prizes (see pp 669–74).

Other Entertainments

RUSH-BEARING

Rush-bearing seems to have occurred less frequently in Cheshire than in Lancashire and was therefore perhaps a less troublesome problem.[84] An order of 1612 concerning recreations on Sundays and holidays for the entire county of Cheshire specifically allows 'the weomen to have leave to carry rushes to the Churche, for the decoring of it, according to their old Custome' (see p 845). Most of the rush-bearing payments for Cheshire occur in a fairly positive context. Payments to the rush-bearers occur regularly in the borough account books of Congleton from 1588 to 1635, and although the entries are short, they do give a great deal of information about the activities connected with such occasions. The rush-bearers received sums ranging from 1s to 3s 4d. As early as 1592–3 the neighbouring village of Buglawton is mentioned in connection with rush-bearing. Congleton was part of a large parish and it may be that different villages took turns to provide the rush-bearing. The Congleton rush-bearing payments seem to fall into two categories. The first, into which the Buglawton payments fall, is that for payments to rush-bearers or to those who provide food and drink to the rush-bearers. The other type of entry indicates a more active involvement in the entertainment on the part of the borough. In 1601–2 Roger Stopperte was paid 10d for both 'drumynge before the Rushebearers & clensyng the pryson howses' (see p 628). He was, with Hugh Chesphord, paid 6d in the following year, 1602–3, 'for plaing before the Rushbearers' (see p 629). There was also a payment of 16d to Thomas Parnell in 1602–3 for 'gunpoud*er* bestoued at the Rushbearyng' (see p 629). Gunpowder becomes a regular feature in the rush-bearing payments after this, although the rush-bearing payments themselves become less regular. Music was occasionally provided, usually in the form of drumming, as indicated. As well, in 1626–7, 3s was given to 'a pyper or musitioner who played before the Rushbearinge by consent of m*aste*r Maior and the overseers' (see p 655). This seems to have been a special occasion, as not only is it unique in the Congleton accounts, but it is also a relatively high payment among the rush-bearing expenses.

Occasionally however there were problems at rush-bearings, as in Macclesfield in 1601 when 'Ehaleza*r* Iohnson' was presented at the ecclesiastical visitation 'for abvsinge the Churchwardens att a Rushbearinge at maxfeil and taking the flowers awaie' (see p 715). The ecclesiastical authorities had the task of maintaining a balance between the two extremes of opinion regarding rush-bearing, and it is over these differences of opinion that the rush-bearings frequently appear in the visitation or consistory court records. Most of the rush-bearing cases in the diocesan records however relate to Lancashire rather than Cheshire.

An association between rush-bearings and inappropriate entertainments can also be seen in Bunbury in 1618. As well as being presented by the high constable for drunkenness, swearing, bearbaiting at the wakes, and resisting arrest, John Boland, the bearward, was also presented for 'beating his bea[t]res at Bunbury at S^{nt} Iames tyde at the Rushbearing there being never non before, contrary to the king*es* booke' (see p 31). That a bearbait took place at a rush-bearing as well as at a wake was sufficiently unusual for the constable to comment specifically upon it and may have been a unique case.

WAKES AND LOVE-ALES

In 1588 the justices of the peace for the county were instructed to ensure that every parish church published an order forbidding wakes and love-ales. The order is of course evidence of the prevalence of these activities, as is admitted in its opening lines. It relates the wakes to other popish activities which were continuing among an ill-informed and superstitious people and claims that they were held 'in honour of sundry strange canonized Saints' (see p 842). And it also claims that they attracted the idle and criminally minded of the county; many of the records of minstrels, bearwards, and others occur in the associated court records. The problem of public order had, however, led to an assembly order in Chester as early as 1515, which forbade the citizens from leaving the town to go to ales and 'prest makyng walshe weddyng*es*' in the countryside, though subsequent orders suggest that the prohibition was not observed.[85]

DANCING

There is a spectrum in dancing from the formal dances which were an essential component of social activity in the houses of the gentry, to public dances of a traditional and approved kind on set occasions, to the spontaneous dancing that might occur in a convivial context of music and alcohol.

Both George and Robert Cally taught what was presumably formal dancing. George claimed to have the esteem of 'men of the best sorte' in 1615–16 (see p 408). Robert was even willing to give instruction to an apprentice at four o'clock in the morning in 1613 (see p 391). Competition in this field was also growing in Chester in the early seventeenth century, for in 1615–16 George Cally petitioned the city authorities to have four recent arrivals in the city who were teaching dancing and music 'discouraged' and 'suppressed' (see p 408). John Bruen, who was sent for his education to the house of his Uncle Dutton, was taught to dance there (see p 807).

The morris dancers who accompanied the Midsummer Show must be considered as part of formal public celebration (see above, pp lxx–lxxi). A performer such as Hugh Gillam who received payment on several occasions for dancing on Midsummer Eve must have displayed special skills, for which he was well rewarded (see pp 111, 114). A more unusual situation is described in a petition of 1585 in Chester which describes how the petitioner discovered four women, two apparently Manx, singing and using a 'straunge kynde of daunce' (see p 212). Although undertaken for pleasure here, it seemed distinctive and may have been Manx folk-dancing, which is in some respects similar to Irish folk-dancing, with arms stiff to the sides, erect posture, and formal steps. In that respect it should be distinguished from the cheerfully anarchic revelry of John Garfield and his colleagues who, during the eve of All Saints 1612, danced around the maypole at Handbridge as they passed it going into and out from that suburb (see pp 389–90).

Alehouses were the usual venues for spontaneous dancing, usually to piping, and it is probably primarily against the employment of such itinerants that the Callys and the waits were petitioning the Innkeepers' company. In Chester in 1612 Elizabeth Craddocke testified that she had danced with a man to a piper (see p 391). Such occasions could readily get out of hand as the revelry grew wilder; at Boughton in 1618 John Moyle held a love-ale in his alehouse with fiddling and dancing and also 'drincking and brawlinge for the most p*ar*t of that nyght' (see p 24). Dancing was among the charges laid against Jane Man (1578) and Richard Wright (1593) but in a context of other illegal activities. Individuals or groups might hire minstrels so that they could dance, as happened in a case of adultery and elopement at Alvanley in 1638 (see pp 14–15). A case with possible recusant overtones comes from Neston in 1618 where a group hired 'a pip*er* to hollywell vpon the Sabboth day.'[86]

STILT-WALKING

In 1570–1 the Painters' company paid 12d 'for towe men goyng on the stylt*es*' and the following year paid 6d 'for goyng vppon the stylt*es* at Rydyng the banes' (see pp 133, 141). Probably such payments were made to members of the Dobe family who are mentioned by name in the company's accounts between 1574–5 and 1602–3 for stilt-walking in the Midsummer Show (see pp 166, 288). Since four different members of the family – Richard, Edward, Aaron, and Moses – are named at various times, stilt-walking seems to have been a family speciality. Possibly the family was in the employ of Robert Wayte, who in 1576–7 was fined by the company for not providing 'his man' to go on stilts at Midsummer (see p 180); that Wayte 'went in to the Ile of man w*ith* them' (ie, the stilts, or both the stilts and his man) suggests that he may have found a more attractive engagement there. The stilts were painted in 1571–2 and 1576–7 (see pp 140, 180). The 1576–7 entry refers to 'the ij shepert*es* for going vppon the Syltes,' which suggests that the stilt-walkers were costumed as play characters, but there is no evidence that stilt-walkers were employed in the production of 'The Shepherds' itself.

LIBELLOUS SONGS AND RHYMES

The use of libellous songs and rhymes is complained about several times in the seventeenth century. The instance of the Northwich constable who tried to arrest Lord Strange's bearward is mentioned above (see above, p lxxvi). The libel in that case was the allegation that the constable would 'loose both his eares' for his action. More common, possibly, were the simple cases of defamation based on personal enmity (see, for example, Middlewich under 1616). A case at Coppenhall, in which the rhymes were a response to the churchwarden's refusal to let a stranger preach or keep a school without a licence, may have recusant overtones (see pp 662–3). Libellous rhymes and songs were specific and occasional but had the potential to become popular and widespread. At the very end of our period, in 1642, singing was being used politically when Thomas Cowper and his group of fiddlers from Whitchurch in Shropshire interrupted the grand jury dinner in Chester with scandalous songs against parliament, the chorus of which was that 'reformac*i*on would bee p*er*fected w*i*th vs when the divell is blind' (see pp 613–14).

Even when they were not themselves scandalous, popular songs could lead to problems if the subject was too topical. In 1588 two fiddlers were singing 'the last Triumphe of england against the spaniardes,' which was objected to by Francis Barlowe on the grounds that it was wiser not to rejoice before the victory (see pp 226–7). The concern here was with possible sedition or Spanish sympathy on Barlowe's part. The song itself seems not to have been contentious as far as the authorities were concerned.

Popular songs by their very nature were unlikely to be written down but the Chester Whitsun Plays preserve the chorus of a secular song, the shepherds' 'troly, loly, loly, loo' (play 7, stage direction after l.447), in which the audience is evidently expected to join. Richard Rastall has suggested that this may have been a song by William Cornysh dating from 1515.[87]

The Decline of Chester's Civic Celebrations

Chester's dramatic and ceremonial activity seems to have peaked in the early decades of the sixteenth century and to have declined thereafter; indeed, by the end of the century, it had lost most of its variety. The Corpus Christi procession, and any play that may have been associated with it, continued to 1548 but ceased with the abolition of the feast. The civic play cycle, which had been performed on Corpus Christi Day in the fifteenth century and had moved to Whitsuntide by *c* 1519, grew considerably between that time and the 1530s but came under pressure from the changing political and religious conditions thereafter and was performed for the last time in 1575. New attitudes in religion, however, affected more than just the plays. The Midsummer Show, said to have begun in 1499, continued throughout our period, with occasional exceptions, but its character changed. Mayor Henry Hardware II, for example, in 1600 forbade the appearance of the devil in his feathers, the naked boys, 'god in stringes' (see collation note, p 345), and other parts of the Show. Although some of these figures were reinstated by subsequent mayors, they eventually were superseded by more modestly dressed children who rode through the city with guild representatives. The sheriffs' breakfast or calves' head feast augmented the ceremonial year from its inception in 1511–12; and in addition the city seems to have responded to the new humanist climate and altered many of its customs in 1540 so that they would have more 'profitable excersises' (see p 331). But by 1642 most of the local practices seem to have ceased and severe restrictions had been placed by the city on travelling companies; in addition most of the ancient customs had either been suppressed altogether or superseded by customs which might have been less offensive to a wider group of people.

After the Restoration attempts were made to revive the Midsummer Show. In 1657 Mayor Richard Minshull proposed its revival as an aid to commerce. The order was only put into execution in 1661 but subsequent enactments of penalties for non-attendance suggest that it was not strongly supported. In 1671 it was moved to the Tuesday of Whitsun week in the expectation of better commercial benefit, but the move was evidently unsuccessful for, in 1678, the Show was finally abandoned.[88]

While it would be dangerous to assume too readily that the revival took exactly the same form as in the pre-1642 period, it does seem that the intention was to re-create the Show in its old format. There are extant accounts for this later revival from companies for whose earlier shows no evidence survives, such as the Merchant Drapers' company. In 1669 the council responded to a request from the lord lieutenant of Cheshire to have the Show put on that year in its original form. They replied that customarily it required six weeks to prepare the Show and that the giants and other features were that year in need of repair.

Among the other civic customs which re-emerged during the interregnum or after the Restoration were the Shrovetide homages (1648–50), the St George's Day race (1651–2), the Christmas Watch (1672), and the sheriffs' breakfast or calves' head feast (1675). The Butchers' accounts suggest that the custom of providing a bull to be baited for the pleasure of the outgoing mayor each year was not discontinued and these late accounts provide evidence of the preparations and conduct of such occasions which is lacking for the earlier period. In effect these revivals constitute an antiquarian record of past practice whose attempted authenticity reflects a need to establish solidarity with Chester's independent past at a time when the city had become economically and politically weakened by the effects of war and of outside competition.

The Documents

The documents and transcriptions have been arranged in four sections: Province of York and Diocese of Chester; Townships, Parishes, and Other Localities; Households; and County of Cheshire. The second section is further subdivided alphabetically by place and, where appropriate, by type of record as well: civic records, ecclesiastical records, guild records, judicial records, miscellaneous records, wills and inventories, and antiquarian records. The Households records are subdivided alphabetically by family name, and also by type of document where appropriate.

The amalgamation of the Chester City Archives (dealing with Chester material only) and the Cheshire Record Office (dealing with the entire county, including some Chester material) to form the Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies (CCALS) occurred during the course of the preparation of this volume. This may give the appearance of greater diversity in some classes of documents than is actually the case, particularly in the quarter sessions files. There are two sets of quarter sessions records, originally held in different record offices, as Chester held its own quarter sessions courts from 1506 onwards. The county quarter sessions were established in 1536 and were held at different locations around the county: Chester Castle, Knutsford, Middlewich, Nantwich, and Northwich were the usual venues. The city quarter sessions dealt exclusively with city matters, over which the county sessions had no jurisdiction. For the county sessions the place where the session was held had no direct bearing on the location of the offences tried there. Doubtless a higher number of local cases occurred at each of the venues, but Nantwich complaints were heard in Knutsford and vice versa.

Internal subdivision of the material also varied between the two archives. The quarter sessions files from the old Cheshire Record Office have the catalogue letters QJF, and are divided only by the date and year of the session. They contain a wide range of material, including presentments by juries and constables, examinations of witnesses, letters to and from justices of the peace, recognizances, orders from the justices, and other legal documents.

The quarter sessions files (ZQSF) from the old Chester City Archives relate exclusively to Chester. Many of the examinations have been catalogued separately under the heading ZQSE. An examination of witnesses at the quarter sessions could therefore appear under any of three different headings, without being a different class of document. There is also a separate book (QJB) of recognizances, although there are recognizances contained in both sets of quarter sessions files. From a practical point of view, one needs simply to be aware that

ZQSF and ZQSE headings refer to Chester, and QJF and QJB are more likely to be from outside Chester.

The other major repository for Cheshire material is the National Archives (Public Record Office). The Cheshire collection there is immense and very lightly catalogued. A single catalogue reference can cover as many as a thousand separate documents, grouped by year only, generally unnumbered, and almost always without any catalogue description to aid the researcher. In these circumstances it can happen that individual documents 'migrate' from one roll to another, or that the numbers of partial rolls and the boxes they are kept in do not always correspond. It is, in fact, only surprising that there are not more accidents of this sort, and the TNA staff have been very careful to rectify mistakes that are brought to their attention. The editors have made every effort to ensure that the documents are cited correctly, but readers are advised that if they are initially unable to find a document in the roll cited (the problem applies particularly to the CHES 24 series), it may have become mixed up in the documents of another (usually adjacent in the series) roll. Many of the documents, particularly in the CHES 24 series (county court and court of Great Sessions), were in too fragile a state to be examined.

Research has therefore had to be done selectively (see pp cxciii–cxcv for discussion of principles of selection in general). Cross-referencing from the crown books (CHES 21), which contain memoranda of the offences and verdicts, has been useful, and information provided by other scholars most helpful. For the rest the editors adopted a policy of random sampling followed by concentration on promising classes of documents and years. This has inevitably resulted in an imbalance, favouring the period after the Statute of Vagabonds (1572) when entertainers were more actively controlled by the authorities. This imbalance is also partly the result of the fact that fewer documents exist from the earlier period, and those that do are less detailed.

There are three main catalogue headings for which the survey must be declared to be incomplete. Much could still be done with CHES 15 and CHES 16, which contain pleadings, interrogatories, and responses. The earliest of both these classes (dating only from the reign of Henry VIII) have been read, but there are still many years to cover. The documents are kept in boxes, sometimes two or three boxes for each catalogue number; the catalogue does not specify how many documents are in a box. Although the material, when relevant, is often interesting, the number of relevant items per 1,000 documents read is small.

The files from the county court and court of Great Sessions have been found to produce more relevant material, although usually with less detail. These contain all sorts of documents, from scraps of parchment with a few names presented by the constables, to lengthy examinations. The documents are generally kept in a roll, attached by a parchment thong through a hole in each document (to the frequent detriment of the text), and many are damaged. A survey of the first nine headings (1341–7) produced no relevant material at all, but as material from after 1547 proved to be more productive, concentration has been on the later period. The period 1547–87 has been covered (with gaps where documents were too fragile to be seen), and also the periods 1607–28 and 1639–42. The intervening years, however, could still yield more material.

More detailed catalogues are available for the Star Chamber proceedings, and these have been surveyed more thoroughly, although Cheshire appears less in the Star Chamber than counties which were closer to London. In all, the research in the National Archives must be considered ongoing, and contributions from readers of these volumes would be welcomed by the editors, who maintain a database of material related to entertainment in Cheshire.

Province of York and Diocese of Chester

BISHOP SCOTT'S VISITATION ARTICLES

Cuthbert Scott (*c* 1516–64) was bishop of Chester from 1556 to 1559.

Manchester, Greater Manchester County Record Office, E7/12/1/2; 1556–8; English; paper; bifolium; 307mm x 209mm; unnumbered; lower edge of f [1] ragged with 30mm high tear at bottom, lower third of f [2] missing, repaired and mounted on modern paper.

ARCHBISHOP GRINDAL'S INJUNCTIONS AND VISITATION ARTICLES

Edmund Grindal (*c* 1519–83) was archbishop of York from 1570 to 1576. The injunctions and the articles were issued together as one book.

Iniunctions | Giuen by the most reuerende father in | **Christ, Edmonde by the prouidence of** | *God, Archbishop of Yorke, primate of Eng-* | **land, and Metropolitane, in his Metropoli-** | ticall visitation of the Prouince of Yorke, | **aswell to the Clergie, as to the Laytie** | **of the same Prouince.** | Anno do. 1571. | [ornament] | Imprinted at London, by | *William Seres.* | *Cum priuilegio.*
Articles | to be enquired of, within the Prouince | **of Yorke, in the Metropoliticall visi-** | *tation of the most reverent father* | **in God, Edmonde Archbishop of** | Yorke, Primate and Metropoli- | **tane of Englande.** | In the .xiij. yeare of the raigne of our most gracious | **soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth, by the grace of God,** | **Queene of England, France and Ire-** | **lande, defender of the** | **fayth, &c.** | [ornament] | ¶ Imprinted at London, by | *William Seres.* | *Anno. 1571.* STC: 10375.

ARCHBISHOP SANDYS' VISITATION ARTICLES

Edwin Sandys (1516?–88) was archbishop of York from 1577 to 1588.

[Device] | ¶ ARTICLES TO BE | **enquired off, within the prouince of Yorke,** | **in the Metropoliticall visitation of the** | **most Reuerend Father in Go⟨.⟩** | Edwin Archbishoppe of | Yorke, primate of | England and | *Metropoli-* | *tane.* | **In the .xix. and .xx. yeare, of the raigne of our most** | **gratious souereigne Lady** Elizabeth **by the** | **grace of God of** England, Fraunce **and** | Ireland Queene, defendor | of the Fayth &c, | 1577, & .1578. | [rule] | [device] | [rule] | ¶ *Imprinted at London by* | *William Seres.* | [rule]. STC: 10376.
In the surviving copy (Bodl.: B.II.21), four-fifths of the last leaf has been cut away.

BISHOP CHADERTON'S VISITATION ARTICLES

William Chaderton (*c* 1540–1608) was bishop of Chester from 1579 to 1595.

Articles to | *be enquired of with-* | in the Diocesse of | Chester, in the visitation of the | **reuerende father in GOD,** | William Bishop of | Chester. | **In the xxij yeere of the reigne of our most | gracious soueraigne Lady Elizabeth, &c.** | Imprinted at London by | Christopher Barker, Printer to | the Queenes Maiestie. STC: 10174.5.

BISHOP VAUGHAN'S VISITATION ARTICLES

Richard Vaughan (1550?–1607) was bishop of Chester from 1597 to 1604.

ARTICLES | to be enquired of | Within the Diocesse of Chester, | in the Visitation of the Reuerend Father in | *God, Richard, Bishop of Chester, in* | the second yeere of the raigne of our | *gracious Soueraigne Lord* | King Iames, &c. | [ornament] | LONDON | Printed by Simon Stafford. 1604. STC: 10175.

BISHOP LLOYD'S VISITATION ARTICLES

George Lloyd (1560–1615) was bishop of Chester from 1604 to 1615.

ARTICLES | to be inquired of | Within the Diocesse of Chester, in | the ordinary Visitation of the reuerend Father | *in God, George, Lord Bishop of Chester,* | anno Domini 1605. and in the yeere of the | *raigne of our soueraigne Lord,* Iames, *by the* | grace of God, of great Brittayne, France | *and Ireland, King, Defender of* | the fayth, &c. | *Viz.* | Of great Brittayne, Fraunce and Ireland, the | *third, and of Scotland the eight and thirtieth.* | [ornament] | Imprinted at London by Simon Stafford, | dwelling in Hosier lane, neere Smithfield. | 1605. STC: 10176.

ARCHBISHOP MATTHEW'S VISITATION ARTICLES

Tobie or Tobias Matthew (1546–1628) was archbishop of York from 1606 to 1628.

ARTICLES | To be inquired of, | *In the Metropoliticall Visitation,* | of the most Reuerend Father in GOD, TOBIE | *by the providence of God, L. Arch-bishop* | *of* Yorke, *and Primate* | *of* England. | [rule] | In the yeare of our Lord | GOD 1607. And in the first yeare | of his Graces Translation | [double rule] | Imprinted at London | 1607. STC: 10377.5.

BISHOP MORTON'S VISITATION ARTICLES

Thomas Morton (1564–1659) was bishop of Chester from 1616 to 1619.

ARTICLES | TO BE ENQVI- | RED OF, IN THE | ORDINARY TRIENNI- | ALL VISITATION OF | *THE REVEREND FA-* | *ther in GOD, Thomas, by the* | prouidence of GOD, Lord | *Bishop of* Ches- | TER. | [rule] | *In the Yeere of our Lord* | *God,* 1617. | [rule] | [ornament] | [rule] | Anno Dom. 1617. STC: 10176.5.

ARCHBISHOP HARSNETT'S VISITATION ARTICLES

Samuel Harsnett (1561–1631) was archbishop of York from 1629 to 1631.

ARTICLES | to be enquired of, | *In the Metropoliticall Visitation of the* | most Reuerend Father in God, Samvel, | by the prouidence of God, Lord Arch- | bishop of Yorke, Primate of Eng- | land, and Metropolitane. | Begun and continued in the yeeres of our | Lord God 1628, and 1629. And in | the first yeere of his Graces | Translation. | [rule] | [device] | [rule] | Imprinted at London by Iohn Bill, | Printer to the Kings most Excellent | Maiestie, 1629. *stc*: 10379.7.

ARCHBISHOP NEILE'S VISITATION ARTICLES

Richard Neile (1562–1640) was archbishop of York from 1632 to 1640.

ARTICLES | TO BE INQVI- | RED OF, | In the Metropolitcall Visitation of the | most Reuerend Father in God, RICH- | ARD, *by the prouidence of God,* | Lord Arch-bishop of *Yorke*, Pri- | *mate of England and Me-* | tropolitane. | [rule] | *In the yeere of our Lord God,* | *1633.* | [rule] | *LONDON,* | *Printed by Iohn Norton.* | *1633.* *stc*: 10380.

ARCTICLES | TO BE INQVI- | RED OF, | IN THE VISITATION OF | the most Reverend Father in *God,* | Richard, *by the Providence of GOD,* | Lord Arch-bishop of *Yorke*, Pri- | *mate of* England, *and Me-* | tropolitane. | [device] | *Had in the Yeere of our Lord* | God, | 1636. | [rule] | London Printed by John Nor- | TON. 1636. *stc*: 10380.5.

ARTICLES | TO | BE INQUIRED OF | In the Visitation of the most Reve- | rend Father, in God, Richard, by the pro- | vidence of God, Lord Arch-Bishop of | York, Primate of England | and Metropolitane. | [rule] | Had in the yeare of our Lord God, 1640. | [rule] | [ornament] | [rule] | LONDON, | Printed by *Iohn Norton.* | 1640. *stc*: 10381.

BISHOP BRIDGEMAN'S VISITATION ARTICLES

John Bridgeman (1577–1652) was bishop of Chester from 1619 to 1643, when parliament abolished episcopacy.

THE | ARTICLES | OF WHICH THE | Church-wardens and Swornemen, | throughout the Diocesse of *Chester,* | *are to take notice and make their* | Presentments thereupon, in this | *Trieniall Visitation of the* | Right Reuerend Father in God, *Iohn* | *by the prouidence of God Lord Bishop* | of that Diocesse. | [device] | London, | Printed by *William Stansby*, 1634. *stc*: 10177.

ARTICLES | TO BE | CONSIDERED ON, | And Presentment to be made there- | unto upon the Oath of the Church- | wardens and Sworne-men through out | the Diocesse of *Chester*, in the | Trienniall Visitation | OF | The right Reverend Father in God, | Iohn, by the Providence of God, Lord | Bishop of that Diocesse, for this present | yeere of our Lord, 1637. | [device] | *LONDON,* | Printed for Henry Seile, 1637. *stc*: 10178.

Townships, Parishes, and Other Localities

ACTON

There are two Actons in Cheshire and one Acton Grange; the Acton in this instance would appear to be in Nantwich hundred.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/17; October–November 1611; English and Latin; paper; i + 205; 285mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; booklets bound together with parchment strings, outer leaves very dirty and ragged, first 4 leaves very damaged and first 14 folios rather crumpled, loose modern table of contents.

This book also contains entries for Davenham, Neston, and Poynton.

Ballads of the Life and Repentance of John Spenser

Iohn Spenser a Chesshire Gallant, his | Life and repentance, who for killing of one Randall Gam was lately executed | at Burford a mile from Nantwich. To the tune of an slumberinge Sleepe. *and* Iohn Spenser his Repentance in | Prison, Written with his owne hands as he lay in | Chester Castle. To the same tune. [1617]. STC: 23098.

ADLINGTON

Will of Lucy Gobert, Widow

The will is a contemporary copy since it bears neither signature nor seal.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1635; 9 November 1630, proved 1635; English; parchment; single membrane; 424mm x 329mm (375mm x 285mm); written on 1 side with brief note of probate on reverse, good condition.

ALDERLEY

The ancient parish of Alderley consisted of the adjacent townships of Nether Alderley and Over Alderley. No distinction was made between them in the visitation book.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

York, Borthwick Institute, V.1633 CB.2B; 1633; Latin and English; paper; i + 296 + i; 321mm x 196mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation, continued from volume 2A (ff 316–612); some enlarged headings; booklets repaired; parchment tags at top right corner for deaneries, modern burgundy cloth and leather binding, gold lettering on spine: 'Metropolitical | Visitation | 1633 | Diocese of Chester | Court Book | Pt. 2 | 316–612.'

This book also contains entries for Ince.

ALPRAHAM

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/116/2; 3 September 1621; English; paper; single sheet; 212mm x 194mm (160mm x 155mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/116/2 series excerpted within this collection.

This MS also contains entries for Bunbury, Little Budworth, and Wettenhall.

ALVANLEY

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 67/3/33; 7 August 1638; English; paper; bifolium; 298mm x 201mm (125–295mm x 185mm); unnumbered.

ASTBURY

Astbury is a large parish, comprised of several townships, including Congleton and Newbold Astbury.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/12b; 1600–2; English and Latin; paper; 202 leaves; 292mm x 197mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; outer leaves dirty, wrinkled, some torn; booklets bound together in 17th-c. parchment binding (very dirty, back cover very ragged), writing on front cover indecipherable, late 19th- or early 20th-c. sticker on spine: '1600–1.'

This MS also contains entries for Macclesfield and Siddington.

ASTLE

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/2; 5 September 1619; English; paper; single sheet; 275mm x 163mm (200mm x 140mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/115/2 series excerpted within this collection.

This MS also contains entries for Marthall.

AUDLEM

Letter of Sir Thomas Delves to Sir Thomas Chamberlain

Sir Thomas Delves (*c* 1571–1648) was knighted on 10 July 1609 and created a baronet on 8 May 1621. He went on to become sheriff of Cheshire for 1636–7. Sir Thomas Chamberlain (d. 1625) was one of the chief justices of Chester in 1616–20 and again in 1624–6.[1]

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/2; 22 September 1619; English; paper; bifolium; 296mm x 197mm (240mm x 140mm); unnumbered; small red wax seal (shield with chevron with crosses on it, and 2 rectangles in upper corners, helmet crest). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 49/2/53; 13 July 1620; English; paper; 2 sheets; 307mm x 205mm (text area variable); unnumbered; originally folded over, subsequently folded in 3 horizontally, bottom of f [2v] becomes outside panel.

Consistory Court Depositions

Although Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies mentions Norton in the shelfmark of this item, the evidence for location is insufficient. The Norton mentioned in the document given is specified as being in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield. This makes a Cheshire Norton unlikely. The mention of a witness from Audlem, in Cheshire, makes it likely that the Norton concerned is Norton in Hales, just over the border in Shropshire. As the case was tried in the consistory court of the diocese of Chester, with witnesses from both counties, it seems likely that the events in the case also crossed county borders.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1621/8 Norton; 11 May–28 June 1621; English and Latin; paper; 4 leaves; 270mm x 197mm; unnumbered; written on ff [1–3] recto only; folded in 4, outer panels very dirty, edges frayed, ink at top faded, damage from damp.

BARNHILL

Barnhill is two miles east of Clutton, and six miles east of Holt, and is on the A534. The examinates in this case, mostly butchers from Chester, were at Barnhill specifically for the bearbaiting.

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 11/71; 22 September 1612; English; paper; bifolium; 315mm x 200mm; unnumbered.

BARNSHAW

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/116/4; 1622; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 201mm (294mm x 175mm); unnumbered; torn at top. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

This MS also contains entries for Christleton.

BARROW

Codicil to the Will of Thomas Brereton, Gentleman

Thomas Brereton of Barrow was probably the son of Sir William Brereton, beheaded in 1536 on a charge of adultery with Anne Boleyn. William was the second husband of Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Somerset, 6th earl of Worcester. She was widow of Sir John Savage of Clifton, by whom she had a son, Sir John Savage of Clifton and Rocksavage, half-brother to Thomas Brereton. Thomas Brereton had a lease of the Lower House, Browne Hill estate, from Sir John Savage, whom he refers to in his will as his brother. He was buried at Sherborne St John, Hampshire.[2] WS 35/15 is the probate copy of the will (21 July) and codicil (25 July); also surviving are an inventory of Brereton's possessions at the time of his death (WS 35/16) and a draft version of the will and codicil (WS 35/17).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 35/15; 21 and 25 July 1587; English; paper; bifolium; 310mm x 206mm; unnumbered; folded in 6 horizontally.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/26; 1625–31; English and Latin; paper; iii + 212; 319mm x 202mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; 7 leaves torn out between ff 90 and 91, outer leaves dirty, back leaves much torn, some pinned-in scraps of paper; booklets bound together, binding does not survive.

This MS also contains entries for Nantwich and Whitegate.

BARTHOMLEY

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/14; October 1605–February 1605/6; English and Latin; paper; i + 190 + i (loose folio at back); 300mm x 195mm; modern pencil foliation; outer leaves dirty, holes in flyleaf, some leaves have ragged edges; booklets bound together in parchment binding (dirty, water-stained, some holes).

This MS also contains entries for Chester, Nantwich, Rostherne, Wistaston, and Wybunbury.

BICKERTON

Quarter Sessions Presentments

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 44/2/12; 18 July 1615; English; paper; single sheet; 85mm x 198mm.

Assize Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/3; 4 July 1616; English; paper; bifolium; 306mm x 195mm (290mm x 182mm); unnumbered. Attached to other documents by a parchment thong.

BOLLINGTON

There are two Bollingtons, one in Macclesfield hundred and one in Bucklow hundred. The mention of Bowdon, Dunham, and Tatton in the document indicates that this was the Bollington in Bucklow hundred.

Quarter Sessions Information

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 38/3/65; 1 October 1609; English; paper; single sheet; 301mm x 201mm (262mm x 170mm); irregular tear in MS resulting in loss of text.

BOUGHTON

The two Boughtons are adjacent: Great Boughton is in St Oswald parish (Broxton hundred), Chester, and Spital Boughton alias St Giles Hospital is extra-parochial to Chester. There is no way of distinguishing between the two but Great Boughton seems more likely.

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/109/3; 4 July 1608; English; paper; bifolium; 295mm x 202mm (280mm x 185mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/109/3 series excerpted within this collection.

This MS also contains entries for Tarporley.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 20 September 1618; English; paper; single sheet; 200mm x 149mm (70mm x 130mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

BOWDON

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/22; 1619–29; English and Latin; paper; 307 leaves; 300mm x 195mm; modern pencil foliation; original binding, parchment on card, 2 string ties on front cover, remains of ties on inside back cover, flyleaves stuck to covers (covers and spine partially detached).

This MS also contains entries for Nantwich and Witton.

BRERETON

Examination Concerning the Murder of Laurence Swetman

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 2/3; 10 February 1516/17; English; paper; single sheet; 400mm x 290mm (355mm x 267mm); written on 1 side only. Bound as f 311 in a volume with others, coming loose from modern cloth-and-board binding with leather covers.

Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Robert Robinson

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/117/3; 6 August 1624; Latin; parchment; single membrane, indented at top; 113mm x 333mm (80mm x 298mm); enlarged first word and 'In cuius' of final clause; bound in modern binding. Attached by a parchment thong to other documents in a roll.

BULKELEY

Quarter Sessions Recognizance

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 47/4/115; 11 December 1618; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 265mm x 380mm; written in 2 columns on lower half of membrane; very dirty, faded and illegible on right side, large tear (190mm x 120mm at widest) in lower left corner resulting in loss of text.

BUNBURY

Ecclesiastical Records

Consistory Court Depositions

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 2/4; 1548–51; Latin and English; paper; i + 376; 303mm x 206mm (260mm x 160mm); modern ink pagination; torn and dirty; booklets bound together in parchment, spine and back cover mostly missing (fragment of earlier Latin MS along inner cover near spine), modern sticker on front cover: 'Depositions in the Consistory Court Chester July 1548 to Mch 1550–1.'

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/11; 1592–1620; English and Latin; paper; 56 leaves; 295mm x 196mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; fair condition, some damage to outer leaves, dirty; 17th-c. parchment binding (dirty brown) some signatures and memoranda on both inner and outer sides, remains of leather clasp.

Judicial Records

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/3; 1 July 1616; English; paper; single sheet; 72mm x 155mm (68mm x 150mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

See also under Alpraham (p lxxxix) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/2.

Great Sessions Recognizances

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 8 June 1618; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 98mm x 145mm (70mm x 139mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 19 June 1618; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 90mm x 145mm (66mm x 140mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

High Constable's Presentments for Eddisbury Hundred

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 1618; English; paper; single sheet; 270mm x 165mm (262mm x 155mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

This MS also contains entries for Little Budworth.

Great Sessions Information

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/4; 1620–1; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 202mm (282mm x 150mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

Mr Burghall's Providence Improved (AC)

Edward Burghall (*c* 1600–65) was born in the parish of Bunbury, lived in Alpraham, and was schoolmaster at the free grammar school in Bunbury until his appointment as vicar of Acton by the parliamentarians in 1646. He remained there for fifteen years and was an active Puritan. He was removed from his office at the Restoration, returned to Alpraham where he died, and was buried in Bunbury. Ormerod notes that he was 'most probably of a Cheshire family of ancient gentry.' His diary, Providence Improved, covers the years 1628 to 1634 and was therefore written when he was still schoolmaster at Bunbury.[3]

William Cole (1714–82), 'the Cambridge antiquary,' was most famous for his 'magnificent collection of manuscripts, extending to nearly a hundred folio volumes, in his own handwriting, which are deposited in the British Museum.'[4] The volume described here has '*Willia*m Cole. Iuly 18. 1777. Milton, near Cambridge.' and 'Vol. 50.' in ink on the flyleaf. Other contents of the volume include illustrations of coats of arms (including all the nobility from William the Conqueror to Elizabeth I), lists of members of the various Cambridge colleges, an address by the Roman Catholics of England on the rebellion of the American colonists (1778), some verse epitaphs, and illustrations of funeral monuments, as well as pieces such as 'The Character of a Mimick,' 'Thomas Lord Lyttelton, 1779,' and miscellaneous notes. Providence Improved now forms ff 52–70 of volume 50 of Cole's collection.

London, British Library, Additional MS 5851; 18 July 1777; English; paper; ii + 218 + iii; 310mm x 195mm; modern pencil foliation, earlier ink pagination crossed out; several pages with heraldic illustrations; excellent condition; 19th-c. binding, spine decorated with gold stamp-work.

This book also contains entries for Carden, Malpas, and Peckforton.

BYLEY

Quarter Sessions Presentment

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 41/3/3; 6 October 1612; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 92mm x 300mm (50mm x 270mm); some repairs, 1 or 2 letters lost in binding.

CARDEN

Mr Burghall's Providence Improved (AC)

See under Bunbury (above) for BL: Additional MS 5851.

CHELFORD

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 27/2/2; 7 May 1597; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 200mm (278mm x 173mm); unnumbered.

CHESTER

Records for Chester are here grouped under the headings Civic, Ecclesiastical, Guild, Judicial, with special categories of Minstrels' Court, Letters of Christopher Goodman, and Rogers Breviaries, followed by Miscellaneous Records.

Civic Records

Assembly Books

The assembly books are the official record of the city council and contain the texts of the council's orders, which are routinely entered from 1588 onward. They may also include the resolutions of disputes over customary practices or economic agreements, an occasional rental of city lands, and other related matter.

The first assembly book is dated in the manuscript description to 1532–1624, but it is probable that the book was not copied before 1567–8. The first orders begin on f 60 and are dated to Henry Gee's term in 1539–40; Gee's orders continue to f 83 but earlier ones are mixed in with them. There is also a city rental (ff 53–7) from Henry Gee's first term, 1533–4, and this probably accounts for the early date on the manuscript even though there are yet earlier orders in it, including a copy of an order of 8 October 1453.

More significant for the dating of the MS is the List of Mayors (Mayors List 28) which forms part of the prefatory matter. The list begins with John Arneway's term, which is dated 1326, and continues in the same hand to 1567–8. Subsequent entries include descriptions of the boundaries of the city, the names and descriptions of the streets (ff 33v–5; copied by Rogers into his Breviaries), and other related matter. The jumbled sequence of orders suggests that the assembly book was compiled from the debris of an earlier book or from loose records, and that the prefatory material was added by an antiquarian who either copied the List of Mayors from another source or compiled it himself and who copied or wrote the descriptions of the city's wards, streets, and liberties, which became the staple of all later antiquarian descriptions of the city.

The assembly book is similar to but not identical with the one copied into BL: Harley MS 2150 (see pp cxl–cxli). The most important difference is that CCALS: ZAB 1 does not include any Banns for the plays; if it was copied as late as 1567–8, then it is possible that the Early Banns were omitted because they had been superseded or, if CCALS: ZAB 1 was copied in the late 1570s, because the plays had ceased to be performed.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAB 1; 1532–1624; English and Latin; paper; ii + 382 + ii; 390mm x 270mm (340mm x 215mm); late 16th-c./early 17th-c. foliation top right from f 60 beginning with number 36, modern pencil foliation bottom right (first 6 leaves lettered A–G, then foliated to 375); little ornamentation, initial words of orders written in bold; early folios damaged at top and sides; pages remounted individually between silk and rebound in modern binding, buckram on board, with white vellum spine (ff 374 and 375 apparently original covers).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAB 2; 1624–84; Latin and English;

paper; ii + 204 + ii; 425mm x 280mm (390mm x 210mm); ff 1–200 17th-c. ink foliation top right (omitting numbers 9, 49, 141–8 from the sequence), ff 190–204 modern pencil foliation top right; little ornamentation; pages remounted individually between silk and rebound in modern binding, buckram on board, with white vellum spine and corners.

Assembly Files and Petitions

The assembly files (ZAF) contain odd notes and papers of attendance at council meetings, rough minutes by the clerk, drafts of fair minutes which might be used as entries in the assembly books, election notes, and copies and originals of mayors' orders.

The collection of assembly petitions (ZAP) goes back at least as far as Randle Holme I. Most of the petitions are addressed to the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and common council. ZAP 2 is two originally separate files of assembly petitions presented to William Aldersey and Richard Rathbone, in 1595 and 1598 respectively.

ASSEMBLY ORDERS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 1; 1407–1535; Latin and English; paper; ii + 22 + x; 355mm x 250mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; leaves preserved between silk; modern half-leather binding, cloth on board, repaired, title along spine in gold: 'Selected Assembly Orders Etc – 1402–1535.' On f 1 the pencilled date 1402/3 has been cancelled and 1410/11 written in pencil above.

ORDER CONCERNING THE SETTING FORTH OF THE WHITSUN PLAYS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 3/25; 30 May 1575; English and Latin; paper; single sheet; 325mm x 282mm (315mm x 275mm). In a modern folder of loose sheets (ZAF 3/1–30).

PETITION OF THOMAS BEDLE, INSTRUMENT MAKER, TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAP 1/38; 13 July 1592; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 204mm; unnumbered.

PETITION OF CHRISTOPHER BURTON, WAIT, TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAP 2/4; 1595; English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 170mm.

PETITION OF CHRISTOPHER BURTON, WAIT, TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAP 2/30; 8 October 1596; English; paper; bifolium; 302mm x 205mm; unnumbered.

PETITION OF THOMAS FISHER, MUSICIAN, TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 8/18; 1608 (in modern pencil); English; paper; single sheet; 272mm x 165mm; right edge torn.

PETITION OF ROBERT AMERY TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 8/38; 1609–10; English; paper; bifolium; 280mm x 168mm; unnumbered; folded width-ways into three, writing is across the width of the middle panel so formed of f [2].

NOTE CONCERNING THE TAILORS' PETITION

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 10/7; 22 October 1613; English; paper; bifolium; 306mm x 192–204mm; unnumbered; heavily stained and faded.

PETITION OF GEORGE CALLY, MUSICIAN, TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 10/53; 1615; English; paper; bifolium; 227mm x 203mm; unnumbered; water-stained and partially faded, holes resulting in loss of text.

PETITION OF THE TAILORS TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZAF 16/24; 1 February 1630/1 (date written in pencil in modern hand); English; paper; single sheet; 192mm x 303mm (178mm x 122mm); folded in 3 vertically, written on second panel.

Mayors' Books

The Mayors' Books 1–4, covering 1392–1453, were used as day-to-day notebooks by the mayors and sheriffs and only from Book 5 (CCALS: ZMB 5) onward were they exclusively Mayors' Books, covering the same business each year. Otherwise the books primarily contain portmote court pleas with some crownmote court pleas. These legal entries, however, do not usually state the nature of the crime, but merely bind the individual over to appear in court. There are also some admissions to the freedom of the city, lists of aldermen, a few assembly orders, and an occasional settlement of a dispute. The formulaic matters – indictments, admissions to freedom – are in Latin; orders, indentures, and other public matters are in English.

The books are among those manuscripts repaired and rebound for Chester city council by the then British Museum between 1932 and 1941. A combination of haphazard survival and careless binding makes the organization of the first four books somewhat chaotic, but thereafter the arrangement is more orderly, with whole books surviving and arranged in chronological series.

Each volume contains from one to twelve Mayors' Books. No consistent practice of modern foliation has been adopted within the volumes. Indeed it seems possible that modern pencil numbering may not represent an attempt at foliation but may have been to aid the conservator; for convenience the modern pencil numbers are here regarded as foliation. Some volumes are unfoliated; some are foliated throughout; in some instances particular years are foliated; in some instances blank folios are excluded from foliation whereas in others they are included. The covers of the books for each year are bound into the volumes and in one case included in the foliation. Some independent account lists are sometimes bound in with the books and may or may not be included in the modern foliation. The practice adopted below is to give the total number of folios in each volume, excluding covers and originally independent and therefore irregularly sized pieces of paper. Folio numbers cited for each record refer to the continuous MS numbering or are editorially supplied as continuous numbering except where it is indicated in the individual descriptions below that the books are foliated anew with each year.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 5; 1454–75; Latin; paper and parchment; 216 leaves; 308mm x 210mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; repaired; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 12; 1520–1, 1523–8, 1530–4, 1537–8; Latin; paper; 290 leaves; 315–420mm x 225–300mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation for 1520–3 (continuous), 1525–6, 1526–7, 1530–1; extensive damage in 1535–6 series; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 19; 1563–4, 1567–8; Latin and English; paper; 241 leaves; 295mm x 195mm (text area variable); contemporary ink foliation top right, with first folio unnumbered in both years, foliation ends at f 79 with following folios numbered in modern pencil to f 90; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in. The foliation under 1563–4 indicates that the sequence of folios has been changed: the numbers run 1–39, 51–2, 40–3, 57–71, 72–80, 92–6, 107, 97, 99–106, 113–22, 130–5, 138, 137, 138–43 (two folios are numbered 138).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 20; 1568–72; Latin and English; paper; 235 leaves; 300mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation within each year, final 4 leaves unfoliated; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 21; 1572–6; Latin and English; paper; 323 leaves; 300mm x 200mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; considerable damage to ff 312–13; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 22; 1578–82; Latin and English; paper; 262 leaves; 300mm x 200mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation within the years 1578–9, 1579–80 (excluding blank folios), and for the section titled 'From Debris 23 Eliz*abeth*' (which is numbered ff a, 1–12, excluding 1 blank folio and omitting 1 folio), other years unnumbered; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 24; 1584–9; Latin and English; paper; 288 leaves; 300mm x 200mm (text area variable); unnumbered, modern pencil foliation for 1588–9 year; modern half-leather binding, original covers for 1587–8 and 1588–9 bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 25; 1589–92; Latin and English; paper; 347 leaves; 300mm x 200mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation within each year, excluding blank folios (except ff 10 and 22 of 1591–2); modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 27; 1596–9; Latin and English;

paper; 279 leaves; 290mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation within each year; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 29; 1606–10, 1612–13; Latin and English; paper; 338 leaves; 291–303mm x 190mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation, including 3 covers; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 30; 1613–16; Latin and English; paper; 286 leaves; 295mm x 190mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation within each year; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 31; 1617–25; Latin and English; paper; 283 leaves; 289–300mm x 193mm (text area variable); unnumbered; modern half-leather binding, original covers bound in.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMB 32; 1626–31; Latin and English; paper; 225 leaves; 300mm x 190–200mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation, omitting f 4; modern half-leather binding.

Mayors' Letters

LETTER OF CAUSE AGAINST RICHARD WRIGHT, INNKEEPER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZML 5/116; 1592–3; English; paper; single sheet; 282mm x 232mm; text reversed on verso.

LETTER OF WILLIAM, EARL OF DERBY, TO THE MAYOR

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZML 2/184; 2 December 1606; English; paper; bifolium; 306mm x 202mm (95mm x 79mm); unnumbered; bound into CCALS: ZML 2 (City of Chester Great Letter Book, 1599–1650).

LETTER OF GRIEVANCE FROM THE TALLOW-CHANDLERS TO THE MAYOR

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZML 6/102; 1613–14; English; paper; bifolium; 307mm x 200mm (270mm x 160mm); unnumbered.

Sheriffs' Court Books

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSBC 21/1; 1574–5; Latin; paper; 256 leaves; 305mm x 200mm; unnumbered except for incomplete contemporary pencil foliation for ff 1–17 beginning on second folio; heavy water damage and material loss throughout on right side.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSBC 22; 1575–6; Latin and English; paper; i + 311; 300mm x 200mm; unnumbered except for modern pencil foliation ff 296–311; last 4 folios repaired fragments; modern half-leather binding, original parchment binding pasted on inside front cover.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSBC 178; 1576–91; Latin and English; 115 leaves, with modern folios interleaved to separate different periods; 305mm x 195mm (text area variable); unnumbered except for some original foliation still visible; modern buckram on board binding, white leather reinforcements on spine and corners.

Sheriffs' Rolls

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSR 149; 1422–3; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 803mm x 375mm; heavily stained and faded, some holes resulting in loss of text.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSR 223; 1436; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 675–710mm x 370mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSR 213; 1436; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 605mm x 306mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSR 262; 1448; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 700–65mm x 388mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSR 356; 1488; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 730mm x 490mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZSR 542; 1539–40; Latin; parchment; 23 membranes, stitched at top; 633–920mm x 230–85mm; contemporary ink numbering in roman numerals from last membrane forward; mb 13 heavily stained. Original numbering not followed here; the membrane editorially numbered as [6] is the sixth membrane from the top; it is numbered 'xviij.'

Corporation Lease Book

The book is primarily a lease book which contains copies of grants, leases, bonds, and documents setting up various charities in the city; in addition it contains Mayor John Savage's letter to the council and its reply (see pp 172–3), some articles of incorporation of companies, and other stray items. At the beginning documents are copied out in full in the language of the original, but towards the end they are replaced by shortened entries in English. Some documents are dated as early as 1507–8; the date in the title on the spine, 'COPIES of | GRANTS LEASES &c | 1574 to 1705,' refers to the time of compilation.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCHB 3; 1507–1705; Latin and English; ii + 261 + ii; 415mm x 290mm (405mm x 210mm); 17th-c. ink foliation (first folio numbered 6) and modern pencil foliation; pages repaired and mounted on guards; modern full green leather binding on boards.

City Treasurers' Documents

The treasurers' account rolls were compiled at the end of each financial year and provide itemized accounts of the city's expenditures and income, including receipts from city rentals.

They are organized on a fiscal year beginning and ending at civic election, the Friday after the feast of St Denys or Dionysius (9 October). Among the rentals are some for carriage houses. Annual disbursements might include those for morris dancers, the mayor's mount, the dragons and other beasts for Midsummer Show, and the minstrels and waits.

Only six fifteenth-century rolls are extant. For the sixteenth century rolls survive for 1547–8, 1554–9, 1563–5, 1568–9, 1571–2, 1577–8, and 1587–94. Rolls for the 1600s survive annually, with some gaps, to 1672. In the absence of original rolls or where they are incomplete or illegible, Randle Holme II's antiquarian transcriptions (see p cv) have been consulted.

CITY TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/4; 1472; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 555mm x 175mm; dirty and very faded. Rentals.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/8; 1554; English; parchment; 8 membranes; 116–705mm x 190mm; unnumbered; partially illegible at each end. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/9; 1556–7; English; parchment; 8 membranes; 200–500mm x 180mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/10; 1558–9; English; parchment; 11 membranes; 138–483mm x 185mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/11; 1563–4; English; parchment; 5 membranes; 270–654mm x 175mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/12; 1564–5; English; parchment; 3 membranes; 445–693mm x 175mm; unnumbered; incomplete at beginning, partially illegible. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/13; 1568–9; English; parchment; 4 membranes; 725mm x 200mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/14; 1571–2; English; parchment; 6 membranes; 375–755mm x 172mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/15; 1574–5; Latin; parchment; 7 membranes, stitched sequentially; 56–535mm x 230mm; unnumbered; triangular tear on mb [1] top. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/16; 1576–7; Latin and English; parchment; 6 membranes, stitched sequentially; 727mm x 251mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/17; 1587–8; English; parchment; 5 membranes, stitched at top; 440–660mm x 180mm; unnumbered. Accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/18; 1588–9; English; parchment; 7 membranes, stitched sequentially; 413–740mm x 180mm; unnumbered; last membrane very dirty. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/19; 1589–90; Latin; parchment; 3 membranes, stitched sequentially; 615–93mm x 251mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/20; 1590–1; Latin and English; parchment; 9 membranes, stitched sequentially; 466mm x 208mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/21; 1591–2; English; parchment; 8 membranes, stitched sequentially; 102–336mm x 150–64mm; unnumbered. Rental and accounts. There is a small paper leaf, 195mm x 102mm, containing accounts rolled up with the roll.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 1/22; 1593–4; English; parchment; 4 membranes, stitched at top; 750–990mm x 162–75mm; unnumbered; partially faded. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/23; 1603–4; English; parchment; 10 membranes, stitched at top; 540–730mm x 175mm; modern pencil numbering. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/24; 1607–8; English; parchment; 5 membranes, stitched at top; 438mm x 137mm; modern pencil numbering; mostly faded and illegible. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/26; 1610–11; English; parchment; 4 membranes, stitched at top; 547mm x 167mm; unnumbered; accounts partially illegible. Rental and accounts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/27; 1611–12; English; parchment; 3 membranes, stitched at top, third membrane detached; 410–624mm x 145–297mm; unnumbered; fragmentary and damaged. Part of a rental down to letter 'K' and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/28; 1612–13; English and Latin; parchment; 3 membranes, stitched at top; 611mm x 215mm; unnumbered; payments partially illegible. Rental and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/30; 1613–14; English; parchment; 8 membranes, stitched at top; 435–630mm x 192–230mm; unnumbered; outer cover attached by modern thread to end of mb [1]. Rental and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/31; 1614–15; English; parchment; 6 membranes, stitched at top; 640–70mm x 280mm; unnumbered. Receipts and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/33; 1616–17; English; parchment; 5 membranes, stitched at top, with mbs 3–5 stitched sequentially; 110–750mm x 320–35mm;

unnumbered; decorated initial ink letter 'T' at start of mb [1]; mb [5] torn along right side, partially illegible. Payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/35; 1617–18; English and Latin; parchment; 8 membranes, stitched sequentially; 630mm x 194mm; unnumbered. Payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/37; 1618–19; English; parchment; 7 membranes, stitched sequentially; 490–680mm x 295mm; unnumbered; decorated initial ink letter 'T' at start of mb [1]. Payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 2/39; 1619–20; English; parchment; 5 membranes, stitched sequentially; 250–770mm x 315mm; unnumbered; decorated initial ink letter 'T' at start of mb [1]; hole in mb [1] at bottom left. Payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/42; 1622–3; English; parchment; 7 membranes, stitched at top (mb [7] formed of two pieces sewn end-to-end); 848mm x 223mm; unnumbered. Rental and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/43; 1625–6; English; parchment; 9 membranes, stitched sequentially; 193–780mm x 185–213mm; unnumbered; decorated initial ink letter 'T' at start of mb [1]. Rental and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/44; 1626–7; English; parchment; 5 membranes, stitched at top; 572–90mm x 199–210mm; unnumbered. Rental and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/59; 1634–5; English; paper; single sheet; 296mm x 185mm; heavy staining along right side, some holes. Receipts and disbursements. Kept in a folder with other miscellaneous loose documents.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/59; 1635–6; English; paper; bifolium; 310mm x 205mm; unnumbered; written on f [1] only; repaired, good condition. Receipts and payments. Kept in a folder with other miscellaneous loose documents.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/59; 1636–7; English; paper; bifolium; 270mm x 200mm; unnumbered. Receipts and payments. Kept in a folder with other miscellaneous loose documents.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/47; 1638–9; English; parchment; 8 membranes; 515–30mm x 146–64mm; unnumbered. Rental and payments.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/48; 1640–1; English; parchment; single membrane; 634mm x 189mm; a second covering membrane present but detached. Receipts and payments. Incomplete.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAR 3/49; 1641–2; English; parchment;

4 membranes, stitched at top; 620–50mm x 185mm; unnumbered; payments partially illegible. Rental and payments.

CITY TREASURER'S VOUCHER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZTAV 1/1; 1574; English; paper; single sheet; 302mm x 209mm; written on both sides; repaired in upper left corner, hole (35mm x 70mm).

CITY TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS (AC)

The seventeenth-century city treasurers' accounts are routine, but the earlier ones from the fifteenth century call for some comment. Randle Holme II, who probably numbered the rolls, says that he transcribed them from a group of old rolls which were much decayed and disordered (on the survival of the original rolls, see pp ci–cii). The rolls are not in strict chronological order and the dates, as a consequence, are uncertain to some extent: sometimes he seems to have estimated the date on the basis of the entries; at other times he could apparently read the mayor's name or the regnal year or both. The regnal year and the mayor's name have been given in the endnotes whenever Holme notes them, as well as other comments he made about the rolls from which extracts have been taken. In some cases several different rolls are ascribed to the same years: these may be duplicates, or rolls of unpaid rents (arrearages), in which case they may be dated either to the term in which the rents were not paid or to the subsequent term in which the arrearage roll was drawn up. In other cases the date of the regnal year and that of the mayoral term contradict one another; however in all of these cases the discrepancy arises because the roll was dated to the regnal year in which it was drawn up but refers to a previous term. The rolls are not in strict chronological order in BL: Harley MS 2158; endnotes to the excerpts identify the accounts by roll number and include Holme's notes on the dates.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2158; early 17th c.; English and Latin; paper; ii + 255 + ii; 302mm x 211mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation correcting older ink foliation, ff 101–348 (40 unnumbered blanks between ff 1–2, 1 unnumbered blank between ff 10–11 and 80–1, 27 unnumbered blanks between ff 11–12, 76 unnumbered blanks between ff 66–7); 17th-c. brown leather binding on boards, now coming apart.

AUDITED CITY TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS (AC)

Described as 'What Writtings & Deeds are in the Maior's, Tresurer's & seuerall other chests & Desks in the pentice of the city of chester,' the MS is mostly in Randle Holme II's hand.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2173; early 17th c.; English and Latin; paper; iii + 125 + vi; 290mm x 193mm (280mm x 130mm); ff 1*–5* modern pencil, ff 1–119 ink foliation (1 unnumbered blank, f 77* follows f 77); BL binding, brown leather on spine and corners.

Miscellaneous Civic Records

PENTICE AND PORTMOTE COURT ROLLS

These rolls are numerous, fragmentary, sporadic in date, and frequently illegible; they defy systematic review. The 1429–30 entry transcribed here was located via Morris, *Chester*, but a selective examination of the rolls suggests that they are unlikely to furnish evidence of dramatic activity. Furthermore the portmote court entries in the Mayors' Books (pp xcviii–c) form a kind of index to the rolls and there seem to be no references to dramatic activity among these entries. The references to plays which do appear in the Mayors' Books are recorded in full in English, and this suggests that play matters would normally be decided by the mayor and council rather than in the courts.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMR 4/85; 1428–30 and 1431/2; Anglo-Norman and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 840mm x 295mm (730mm x 265mm); written continuously on both sides.

ORDER FOR THE CITY WAITS

London, British Library, Harley MS 2150; 1539–40; English; paper; single sheet; 312mm x 210mm (115mm x 195mm). Original order bound as f 108 in BL: Harley MS 2150 (pp cxl–cxli).

THE WHITE BOOK OF THE PENTICE

The Early Banns (pp 81–7) are included in a transcription of the 'white booke of the pentice' which begins on f 49 of Harley MS 2150, but which itself is part of a Holme II manuscript collection entitled 'Deedes & customes with other notes conserning the Citty of Chester.' Many, but not all, of the entries in this section of the manuscript are identical with those preserved in the Chester assembly book (CCALS: ZAB 1) and generally appear in the same order; consequently Harley MS 2150 and the assembly book, each leaving parts uncopied, must have been compiled from a common prototype, or Harley MS 2150 is a copy of a city record kept at the Pentice, and the extant assembly book is a separate, nearly duplicate record kept at another location.

See under Miscellaneous Records (pp cxl–cxli) for BL: Harley MS 2150.

APPRENTICESHIP INDENTURE REGISTER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZMAB 1; 1550–1650; Latin; paper; ii + 174 + iv; 313mm x 250mm; contemporary and modern pencil foliation (followed here); modern rebinding of book cloth over boards with leather spine and corners. Pencil note on the first of the final flyleaves: 'In antiquity evidently in small books which accounts for many blanks in sections. only 79ff written upon. Original ff 1–58 were missing. Some sheets recovered from Debris packets C J L July 1935.'

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE MIDSUMMER WATCH

London, British Library, Harley MS 2150; 1563–4; English; single sheet; 200mm x 305mm (190mm x 285mm); folded once; 2 seals. Original memorandum bound as f 208 in BL: Harley MS 2150 (pp cxl–cxli).

DEED OF ACCORD BETWEEN GEORGE AND ROBERT CALLY, WAITS

London, British Library, Harley MS 2054; 25 July 1599; English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 185mm (260mm x 183mm); repaired and recovered with conservation tissue. Original agreement bound as f 101 in BL: Harley MS 2054 (p cxxvi).

PROCLAMATION REGARDING THE ST GEORGE'S DAY RACE

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCC 15/9; 1609; English; paper; single sheet; 327mm x 210mm (text area variable); initial 'T' in first word of heading and each of main sections enlarged; repaired.

ARTICLES OF THE ST GEORGE'S DAY RACE

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCC 47/3; *c* 1609; English; paper; bifolium (enclosed in plastic); 310mm x 203mm (text area variable: ff [1–1v] only); folded in 4 horizontally, stained on right, outer panels dirty; whole attached to card, which has legend at the bottom: '[1598?] "The Chester Cup." Articles to be performed for certain Orders touching the running of a Race on St George's Day (23 April) at the Roodey, for two bells "and lykewyse for a Cupp."'

DESCRIPTION OF ROBERT AMERY'S DEVICE FOR THE ST GEORGE SHOW

London, British Library, Harley MS 2150; 1609–10; English; paper; single sheet; 295mm x 195mm (284mm x 193mm). Original document bound as ff 186–6v in BL: Harley MS 2150 (pp cxl–cxli).

AGREEMENT REGARDING MIDSUMMER GIANTS AND THE MAYOR'S MOUNT

London, British Library, Harley MS 2150; 1626–7; English; single sheet; 314mm x 210mm (305mm x 170mm). Original document bound as ff 209–9v in BL: Harley MS 2150 (pp cxl–cxli).

DISPUTE BETWEEN CITY AND CATHEDRAL OVER THE MAYOR'S SWORD (AC)

See under Audited City Treasurers' Accounts (p cv) for BL: Harley MS 2173.

Mayors Lists

The calendars of mayors and sheriffs are among the earliest antiquarian documents of Chester. Though some exist simply as lists, most of the calendars also include notes on important events in the city's history. There are two principal groups of calendars, those that cite Sir Walter Lynnett as the first mayor and those that begin with Sir John Arneway. These can be further subdivided according to the year assigned to the first mayor's term. The earliest lists are probably those from the assembly book (CCALS: ZAB 1, ML 28), BL: Additional MS 29777 (ML 9), and John Rylands Library: English MS 202 (ML 20), all of which place Arneway's first term in 1326. Of these the assembly book's list is probably the earliest and can be dated to 1567–8 when the assembly book began to be assembled, but it is possible that Harley MS 1046 (ML 1) antedates these three (it begins Arneway's term in 1320). In any event David Rogers had a copy of a list corresponding to Harley 1046, but he altered the date of the first mayoral term from 1320 to 1328 in the Chester Archives Breviary, CCALS: ZCX 3 (ML 29), and retained that date in Harley MS 1944 (ML 2) and Harley MS 1948 (ML 22), despite the fact that in CCALS: ZCX 3, ff 110v–11v, he says that he is aware that most lists begin with Arneway's term in 1329.

Mayor William Aldersey produced a new list in 1594 in order to correct the mistaken chronology and to restore Sir Walter Lynnett to his place as the first mayor (Aldersey Memorandum Book, ML 15). The Aldersey lists were compiled from documents in his own and the city's possession,[5] and thus the list can be regarded as fairly authoritative. Unfortunately the Aldersey lists also have the fewest references to dramatic and ceremonial activity, presumably because their author did not make entries for which there was no reliable documentary evidence or no evidence at all.

There seem to be three versions of Aldersey's list:

1) BL: Additional MS 39925 (ML 26), an early seventeenth-century copy, begins with Lynnett in 1317 and this list is undoubtedly the source for George Bellin's lists in Harley MS 2125, List I (ML 5), and Additional MS 29779 (ML 10), both of which are dated 1622. CCALS: ZCR 469/542 (ML 12), CCALS: ZCR 60/83 (ML 13), and Bodl.: MS. Top. Cheshire c.9 (ML 19) also contain the first stage of Aldersey's list.

2) BL: Harley MS 2125, Lists II and III (MLS 6 and 24), and Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5 (ML 34) begin with Lynnett in 1257.

3) BL: Harley MS 2057 (ML 3), Harley MS 2133, List I (ML 7), Additional MS 11335 (ML 8), Additional MS 29780 (ML 11), CCALS: DLE 85 (ML 14), DLE 135 (ML 15), DLT/B 37 (ML 16), CCALS: P/Cowper, Collectanea Devana, Vol I (ML 17), Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, MSS 05289 (ML 21), Harley MS 1989 (ML 23), Harley MS 2133, List II (ML 25), Stowe MS 811 (ML 27), CCALS: DCC 3 (ML 31), and DCC 11 (ML 32) begin with Lynnett in 1241 or 1242.

It is probable, therefore, that Aldersey's list went through three phases: first he added Lynnett to the old lists which had started with Arneway in the 1320s; then he moved Lynnett back to 1257 and Arneway to the 1260–70s; and finally he settled on 1241 as the first of Lynnett's terms. Aldersey's 1594 list is the most historically accurate record from this period.

There are also some compilations attributed to Aldersey (eg, Stowe MS 811 (ML 27), Additional MS 11335 (ML 8), Additional MS 29780 (ML 11)) that contain a List of Memorable Events which usually starts about 1275. Since these lists say that the last performance of the plays took place in 1572, it seems likely that they represent an antiquarian compilation begun by Aldersey sometime before 1575 and thus they antedate the list of 1594.[6] The information in these lists is sometimes off by several years and often disagrees with the Aldersey Mayors Lists which follow in the same MSS, eg, in Additional MS 29780 and Stowe MS 811.

Not all of the MSS listed below are simply Lists of Mayors; the lists are often contained within antiquarian histories of Chester, most of the latter of which were directly descended from Archdeacon Rogers' Breviary or its predecessor. Some contain the List of Companies and their Parts in the Whitsun Plays, but they have no other descriptions of dramatic activity than those entered in the Mayors Lists.

The lists following can be divided into two categories: Mayors Lists 1–21 (lists yielding records) and Mayors Lists 22–34 (lists consulted but not used). These are subdivided and grouped by the manuscripts' repository location. Numbering is editorially assigned for convenience of discussion within this publication, and is not intended to indicate anything about the hierarchy or priority of these MSS. The present numbering does not correspond with the numbering assigned in Clopper (ed), *Chester* (1979). For the purposes of comparison a table of concordance has been created.[7]

For additional comment on the dating of entries within the Mayors Lists and for principles of selection governing transcription from MLs in this collection, see pp cxciv–cci.

MAYORS LIST 1 (A)

Harley MS 1046 is a book of genealogies except for the List of Mayors (ff 159v–65). The catalogue begins with John Arneway's term in 1320 and concludes with the 1586 entry.

London, British Library, Harley MS 1046; 17th c.; English; paper; ii + 242 + iii; 287mm x 185mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation, correcting older ink foliation; some double columns; leaves pasted on new binding strips, modern dark brown cloth binding on boards with black leather corners and spine.

MAYORS LIST 2 (A)

The list (ff 67–100) begins with Arneway's term in 1328 and continues in the same hand until *c* 1637; however some of these last entries may have been later additions.

See under Rogers' Breviaries (pp cxxxvii–cxxxix) for BL: Harley MS 1944.

MAYORS LIST 3 (AC)

Harley MS 2057 is titled 'The maiors of chester. the charters of ye Citty with other thinges about ye same.' The list is attributed to Aldersey; it begins with Lynnett in 1241 and continues in the same hand until 1601.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2057; 17th c.; English and Latin; paper; ii + 171 + iii; 307mm x 194mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation correcting older ink; leaves restored and rebound as singles, BL binding, brown leather on corners and spine.

MAYORS LIST 4 (A)

Harley MS 2105 is described as 'seuerall things concer*n*inge the citty of Chester.' The list (ff 87–97) is a fragment which begins with the twenty-first mayor in 1348 and ends with 1580. From 1569 to the end the entries are in various hands.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2105; early 17th c.; English and Latin; paper; ii + 296 + iii; largest 310mm x 200mm, smallest 225mm x 140mm; modern pencil foliation, partial older ink foliation; single leaves attached to modern binding strips, BL binding with red leather on spine and corners.

MAYORS LISTS 5–6 (AC)

The first list (ff 23–58, here ML 5) is dated 1622 and Randle Holme II, who made a number of annotations on it, says that it is George Bellin's catalogue; it is probably Bellin's hand. The list begins with Lynnett but assigns his term to 1317; it is in one hand to 1623 (f 58) and is continued to 1650 in a second hand (f 74). The second list (ff 90–157v, here ML 6) is derived from an Aldersey exemplar which begins in 1257. The list is in one hand to 1650 (ff 90–157v; probably Randle Holme's) and continued in another to 1705 (ff 158–72).

London, British Library, Harley MS 2125; English; paper; ii + 195 + iii; 307mm x 217mm (300mm x 143mm); modern pencil foliation correcting older ink numbers; some damage from dampness; single sheets bound together, dark red leather BL binding on boards.

MAYORS LIST 7 (AC)

Harley MS 2133 contains two lists. List I (ff 10–58v) begins with Lynnett in 1241 (f 10) and continues to 1622 in the same hand; however the list was apparently started in 1615–16 (see f 47v where the numbering of years is reversed to 'tyme expired'), continued by the same scribe until 1622, and then continued by another scribe to 1635. List I to 1622 is mostly in Holme II's hand and List II (see ML 25, p cxv) is entirely in his hand.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2133; 17th c.; English; paper; 90 leaves; 297mm x 190mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; 17th-c. brown leather binding on boards, now loose, with clasp marks.

MAYORS LIST 8 (A)

The MS, William Aldersey's 'Antiquitie of the Most Famous Citty of Chester,' contains a List of Memorable Events which begins with 1275 and stops at 1645; the reference in the 1642 entry to King Charles 'that now is' suggests the list was originally compiled in this year. The list is in the same hand as in BL: Stowe MS 811 (see ML 27).

London, British Library, Additional MS 11335; *c* 1724; English; paper; iii + 86 + ii; 315mm x 205mm (310mm x 175mm); modern pencil foliation (single unnumbered leaf between ff 34 and 35, 11 leaves missing); modern brown leather binding.

MAYORS LIST 9 (A)

The list begins with Arneway's term in 1326; the roll is torn off in the middle of the 1584 entry.

London, British Library, Additional MS 29777; late 16th c.; English; parchment; 14 membranes attached serially; 250–840mm x 205mm; unnumbered; written on 1 side only; occasional use of red ink for proper nouns, initial words and phrases, elaborated initials; end of roll faded.

MAYORS LIST 10 (A)

The list begins with Lynnett in 1318 and is in the hand of List I in Harley 2125, ie, probably George Bellin's.

London, British Library, Additional MS 29779; 17th c.; English; paper; ii + 63 + ii; 289mm x 221mm (280mm x 170mm); modern pencil foliation; single leaves attached to modern binding, modern leather binding on boards.

MAYORS LIST 11 (A)

The list begins with Lynnett in 1241 (f 93) and is attributed to Aldersey. On ff 113–71 there is a List of Memorable Events in Chester similar to that in Additional 11335 but continued by the scribe to 1771.

London, British Library, Additional MS 29780; 18th c.; English; paper; 189 leaves; 335mm x 205mm (298mm x 160mm); modern ink foliation; multicoloured patterned binding with leather spine and corners.

MAYORS LIST 12 (AC)

This is apparently an early version of Aldersey's list. The manuscript contains the original version of William Aldersey's corrected list of Chester's mayors; the annals were continued after Aldersey's death in 1616. The book also served as an occasional notebook.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 469/542; 1594–1637; English; paper; 51 leaves; 195–230mm x 122–70mm; unnumbered; page edges crumbling; vellum cover made from 16th-c. lease, now kept in modern binder, black leatherette on boards, inscribed in gold on cover: 'Original M.S.S. being A History Of The Mayors Of Chester Drawn Up By Mr William Aldersey circa 1595.'

MAYORS LIST 13 (A)

The manuscript is in the hand of George Bellin. The list is substantially duplicated in BL: Harley MS 2125, List I, ff 23–58 (ML 5), which is described by Randle Holme III as 'Geo. Bellens Catalogue' Mayors List (erroneously known as the 'Whitbie Annals').

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 60/83; 17th c.; English; paper; vi + 37 + ii; 298mm x 190mm; original leaves unnumbered, disbound and each set between sheets of thick paper which bear modern ink foliation (followed here), stubs of 2 folios now lost at the start; running head-rulings and margin-rulings rubricated to f 24, dates and running heads rubricated to f 22, pages ruled.

MAYORS LIST 14 (AC)

This is an account book belonging to Charles Leche and containing other material, including a copy of Aldersey's List of Mayors of Chester. Charles Leche of Carden was born in 1563 and died in 1639; the Mayors List appears to have been copied by him. The Mayors List in Charles Leche's book derives from the Aldersey memorandum book but apparently through an intermediate source.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DLE 85; 1563–1639; English; paper; 86 leaves; 396mm x 145mm (text size variable); contemporary pagination forward from back, ff 1–20 (accounts, some folios missing); text runs from both front and back; yellowed parchment binding (worm holes), leather at binding points on spine.

MAYORS LIST 15 (AC)

This book, the Aldersey memorandum book, has been badly damaged at some point, and is now in conservation. It dates from the sixteenth century and includes an inventory of goods of Raphe Aldersey (d. 1554) as well as the Aldersey List of Mayors. As it is in the Leche of Carden collection, it may have been the source for the Mayors List in Charles Leche's account book. William Aldersey (d. 1616) issued the Aldersey List of Mayors in 1594, which improved upon earlier lists. His daughter, Alice, married John Leche of Carden in either 1613 or 1616. Ormerod's genealogy of the Aldersey family is at fault, as he assigns a date of death in 1577 to William Aldersey but lists his second son as the heir, his elder son having died in 1608.[8]

A note on the outer envelope in which the Aldersey memorandum book was kept, apparently written by W.F. Irvine, reads:

> Raphe Aldersey was the father of Wm Aldersey twice mayor of Chester whose dau Alice married John Leche in 1616. Raphe Aldersey died 30 June 1554 and it is probable that the book was continued by Wm Aldersey his son who compiled the annals of Chester a copy of which is to be found in Charles Leches Book. This book then may have been the initial annals composed by Wm Aldersey upon which he subsequently improved.

This confirms the probability that Ormerod made an error in the date of death for William Aldersey the elder, and in the name of one of his daughters, and possibly in the marriage date.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DLE 135; 16th c.; English; paper; 20 leaves; 180mm (bottom missing, very ragged) x 145mm; extremely faint, often illegible, modern pencil foliation (ignored in favour of editorially assigned folio numbers); very badly damaged, blue and red lettering show through; bound with parchment leaf (from missal).

MAYORS LIST 16 (A)

The list begins with Lynnett in 1241 and is in the same hand to 1644.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DLT/B 37 (Tabley Liber N); 1644; English; paper; 123 leaves; 185mm x 150mm (170mm x 120mm); modern pencil foliation; 17th-c. vellum binding.

MAYORS LIST 17 (A)

The list is part of 'Collectanea Devana,' Vol I, historical collections made by Dr William Cowper, who was mayor of Chester 1754–5. It begins with Lynnett (1242) and was continued by Cowper up to 1758.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, P/Cowper, Collectanea Devana, Vol I; *c* 1763; English with a few Latin entries; paper; iii + 233 + vi (with some loose unnumbered leaves inserted); 322mm x 204mm (293mm x 168mm); modern foliation 1–127 starting on eighth folio, modern pagination beginning with number 128 on f 127v onward with correction at f [137v] so even page numbers fall on rectos; very worn brown rough calf binding.

MAYORS LIST 18 (AC)

The list begins (f 63) with Arneway in 1320 and the final entry is on f 82v although f 83 is drawn up with headers as if to receive further entries.

See under William Smith's Description of Chester (p cxxxv) for Bodl.: MS. Rawlinson B. 282.

MAYORS LIST 19 (AC)

The eighteenth-century antiquarian, Dr Foote Gower of Chelmsford (*c* 1725–80), proposed in 1771 to write a new history of Cheshire and submitted to the Society of Antiquaries a list of relevant manuscripts. The list (ff 228–36) begins with Lynnett in 1315.

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Cheshire c. 9; 18th c.; English and Latin; paper; i + 249; leaves of varying sizes, relevant section: 190mm x 155mm (text area variable); 18th-c. ink foliation, supplemented by modern pencil foliation; various illustrations of coats of arms and crests; some wear but overall good condition; various documents and booklets (including some printed works) bound together in modern leather and board binding.

MAYORS LIST 20 (AC)

JRL: English MS 202 is catalogued as Robert Hassall's Commonplace Book. Ormerod does not mention a Robert Hassall in his genealogy of the Hassall family of Hassall. There is also a Hassall family of Nantwich, about whom Ormerod gives no information other than to note its existence. The 'Thomas Babbington' mentioned on a sticker on the inside cover is probably Thomas Bebington of Chorley, who married Mary, daughter of John Leche of Carden and niece of Charles Leche. Thomas Bebington was therefore the brother-in-law of the John Leche, serjeant at law, who married Alice Aldersey.[9]

The list begins with Arneway in 1326 and is continued in the same hand to 1602.

Manchester, John Rylands Library, English MS 202; 1554–1711; English and Latin; paper; iii + 78 + ii; 292mm x 192mm (text area variable); in 2 columns in places (including Mayors List); modern pencil foliation; some enlarged headings; some repairs; 3 booklets bound together in modern board and brown vellum, spine broken, both boards detached, various stickers on inside covers, one reads: 'Si pueri scirent quantum doctrina valeret: Nunquam dormirent sed nocte die*que* studere*n*t xxviij die Iunij 1591 Rob*er*t Hassall.' Note on the flyleaf reads: 'J.H. Leche Carden Park Chester °this book was° Found at Carden 1885 and rebound 1886.'

MAYORS LIST 21 (A)

The list begins with Lynnett in 1241 and continues in one hand to 1616. The title page says that the list was copied by William Ince in 1618.

Toronto, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, MSS 05289; 1618, with additions in another hand 1617–39; English with a few Latin entries; paper; 170 leaves (126 blanks); 292mm x 195mm (277mm x 165mm); unnumbered (1 leaf missing between ff [35–6], ff [105–6] partially torn out; several blanks excised at end); 17th-c. vellum binding on boards.

MAYORS LIST 22 (A)

The list begins with Arneway in 1328 and was continued by Rogers until 1637.

See under Rogers' Breviaries (pp cxxxvii–cxl) for BL: Harley MS 1948.

MAYORS LIST 23 (AC)

The List of Mayors and Sheriffs (ff 93–8) in this MS is a fragment which begins with Lynnett in 1241 and stops at 1303.

London, British Library, Harley MS 1989; 17th c.; English; paper; iii + 98 + iv; 296mm x 193mm (280mm x 135mm); modern pencil and ink foliation; brown cloth BL binding on boards, reddish-brown leather on corners and spine.

MAYORS LIST 24 (AC)

The third list (ff 173–95) in Harley MS 2125 is similar to List II (ML 6) but contains little more than the mayors' names and only a single reference to the plays. It was transcribed by Randle Holme II and goes only to 1616.

See above under Mayors Lists 5–6 for BL: Harley MS 2125.

MAYORS LIST 25 (AC)

List II of MS 2133 (ff 59–68v) simply enrolls the mayors from Lynnett in 1240 to 1509 and then says that all catalogues agree after that point. It was transcribed by Randle Holme II and resembles ML 24.

See above under Mayors List 7 for BL: Harley MS 2133.

MAYORS LIST 26 (AC)

The MS contains an Aldersey list which begins with Lynnett in 1317 (f 12) and continues to 1634.

London, British Library, Additional MS 39925; late 16th-c. hand (latest date 1583), with additions in early 17th-c. hand (to 1623) and continued to 1634; English; paper; iii + 170 + iii; 335mm x 215mm (285mm x 140mm); modern pencil foliation (3 unnumbered blanks after f 31); brown morocco leather.

MAYORS LIST 27 (AC)

The MS is in the same hand as Additional MS 11335 (see ML 8) and contains some of the same material. The list is an Aldersey list and begins with Lynnett in 1241.

London, British Library, Stowe MS 811; 18th c.; English and Latin; paper; ii + 114 + ii; 330mm x 205mm (315mm x 180mm); modern pencil foliation (2 unnumbered blanks between ff 72 and 73, 4 unnumbered blanks between ff 77 and 78, 3 unnumbered blanks between ff 80 and 81); 18th-c. brown leather binding on boards, gold frame design on covers and spine.

MAYORS LIST 28

The list begins with Arneway in 1326 (f 11) and continues in the same hand to 1567–8.

See under Assembly Books (p xcvi) for CCALS: ZAB 1.

MAYORS LIST 29 (A)

The list (ff 93–104v) begins with Arneway in 1320, which Rogers later corrected to 1328. The list continues in his hand to 1618, although the entries for 1615–18 seem to be later additions.

See under Rogers' Breviaries (pp cxxxvii–cxxxix) for CCALS: ZCX 3.

MAYORS LIST 30 (AC)

The MS is an eighteenth-century copy and contains a list (ff 12–31) which begins with Arneway in 1328 and continues to 1633.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCC 1; 18th c.; English; paper; i + 65; 195mm x 155mm (185mm x 150mm); contemporary ink foliation, ff 1–31 only, ff [31v–65v] blank and unnumbered; good MS condition, binding slightly loose; contemporary vellum binding on boards.

MAYORS LIST 31 (AC)

The list begins with Lynnett in 1242 (f 22) and continues to 1646.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCC 3; English; paper; ii + 87 + i; 204mm x 160mm (201mm x 155mm); contemporary ink foliation, 1–22, otherwise unnumbered; contemporary brown leather on boards.

MAYORS LIST 32 (AC)

The list (ff 117–66) begins with Lynnett in 1241 and continues in the same hand to about 1635.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCC 11; 17th–18th c.; English; paper; iii + 295 + iii; 280mm x 185mm (278mm x 185mm); unnumbered; brown leather binding.

MAYORS LIST 33 (AC)

DSS 3991/349 is among the collection of records of the Shakerley family of Hulme and Somerford. Peter Shakerley of Somerford (1709–81) inherited the Shakerley estates from his father, George, half-brother of Peter Shakerley of Shakerley, Hulme, and Somerford, who died without issue. Both Peter and his father, Geoffrey Shakerley, were governors of Chester Castle, a position which would have given them access to documents kept there. The Shakerleys had also intermarried in the fifteenth century with the Leycesters of Tabley and were thus related to the seventeenth-century Cheshire antiquarian, Sir Peter Leycester of Nether Tabley (see p cxxxv).[10]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 3991/349; English; paper; ii + 52 + i; 275mm x 195mm (text area variable); contemporary ink pagination; some damage, bottom left at spine; 2 booklets sewn together at spine with string (original), parchment binding, dirty and partially torn.

MAYORS LIST 34 (A)

See under Rogers' Breviaries (pp cxxxvii–cxl) for Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5.

Ecclesiastical Records

Thomas Arundel's Metropolitical Visitation of St John's Collegiate Church

London, Lambeth Palace Library, Registrum Thomas Arundel I; 1396–1405; Latin; parchment; i + 561 + ii; 380mm x 280mm; ink foliation; ancient brown tooled leather binding, with small horn plaque with brass studs on front cover.

St Werburgh's Cartulary

On the founding and dissolution of St Werburgh's Abbey, see pp xx–xxii.

Manchester, John Rylands Library, Latin MS 460; 22 June 1518; Latin and English; paper; iii + 75 + iii; 400mm x 275mm; modern pencil foliation (2 stubs between ff 48 and 49; ff 1, 17, 19, 23, 38, 45, 57, 59–62, 64–5, 67, 69, 72–4 blank); some water damage, ff 54–6; modern binding, embossed 'JR' on cover.

Property List of the Carmelite Friars

The document contains a list of Carmelite properties seized at the Dissolution.

London, The National Archives, Public Record Office, SC 6/Henry VIII/7384; 1539–41; Latin; paper with parchment covers; 82 membranes, attached at top; 685–830mm x 285mm; unnumbered; written on both sides of the membranes; elaborated headings mark divisions; first membrane badly faded.

Chester Cathedral

Before 1541 Chester was not a separate diocese but part of the large diocese of Coventry and Lichfield. On 4 August 1541 Henry VIII created by letters patent the diocese of Chester. The former abbey of St Werburgh became the cathedral of the new diocese, with provision for one bishop, one dean, and six prebends. The last abbot of St Werburgh's, John Clerk, became the first dean of the new cathedral. The diocese of Chester was part of the archdiocese of York.[11]

CATHEDRAL TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS

The cathedral treasurers' accounts date from virtually the beginning of the new foundation, but they are not continuous and some have been misdated in modern times. The accounts in the first two volumes are fragmentary and rather jumbled, but many of them are dated by regnal year or include a date in the expenditures.

How or why one manuscript of Chester Cathedral accounts (St George's Chapel Archives, SGC XV.59.37) came to be in the Windsor Castle collection is unknown. It was in the possession of the archives by the 1890s as it was included in the catalogue begun by Canon Dalton (canon of Windsor from 1885–1931) in 1891.

Accounts before 1550 observe a Michaelmas to Michaelmas fiscal year divided into four quarters ending at Christmas, the feast of the Annunciation, Midsummer, and Michaelmas. The accounts in the last two volumes are more systematic and typically divide the year into four segments: from the feast of St Catherine (November 25) to the Nativity, from the Nativity to the Annunciation, from the Annunciation to the feast of St John, and from the feast of St John to that of St Catherine. Some accounts include an additional division for the period of Michaelmas to St Catherine's Day.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDD 3913/1/1; 1542–59; English; paper; i + 176 + i; 309mm x 207mm (text area variable); modern pencil pagination bottom corner (followed here), some earlier modern pencil pagination top corner; some enlarged and slightly decorated initials; repaired; individual accounts bound together in modern burgundy half-leather binding with straight-grain embossing.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDD 3913/1/2; 1561–84; English; paper; iii + 314 + i; 314mm x 212mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation top right corner (followed here), earlier pencil foliation also survives but order has changed; some enlarged headings; gatherings repaired and bound together; modern blue cloth and brown leather binding.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDD 3913/1/3; 1584–1610; English; paper; ii + 368 + ii; 309mm x 201mm (text area variable); modern pencil pagination bottom left corner (followed here), earlier occasional pagination top right corner; headings enlarged on some pages; gatherings of accounts repaired and bound together; modern blue cloth and brown leather binding.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDD 3913/1/4; 1611–44; English; paper; ii + 452; 305mm x 203mm (text area variable); modern pencil pagination bottom left corner (followed here), earlier modern pencil pagination top right corner; some enlarged headings; gatherings repaired and bound together; modern blue cloth and brown leather binding.

Windsor Castle, St George's Chapel Archives, SGC XV.59.37; 1 October 1623–30 September 1624; Latin and English; paper; 14 leaves; 310mm x 210mm (300mm x 170mm); modern pencil foliation; parchment binding. Also available in photocopied form at the CCALS as DDX 400.

CONSISTORY COURT DEPOSITIONS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 2/9; 1570–4; English and Latin; paper; vi + 354; 307mm x 200mm (text area variable); modern ink pagination, changes to pencil at f 615 (several errors in pagination); booklets bound together at spine, no outer binding. The surviving flyleaves have an early 20th-c. list of contents. Includes a damaged booklet (foliation lost) at the end dated January–February 1573.

CHESTER DIOCESAN VISITATION PROCEEDINGS

York, Borthwick Institute, V.1578–9 Visitation Papers: Chester, answers; 12 July 1578; English, Latin, and Greek; paper; bifolium; 295mm x 197mm (275mm x 177mm); unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/29; 1628; English and Latin; paper; 33 leaves; 290mm x 195mm (edges ragged); modern foliation; fragment of longer book, 4 unbound booklets, outer leaves dirty.

This MS also contains entries for Heswall.

See under Barthomley (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/14.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS (AC)

London, British Library, Harley MS 2177; 1653; English; paper, single sheets bound together; i + 108 + i; 286mm x 184mm (265mm x 139mm); modern pencil foliation and older ink foliation which runs 1–165 (f 3–end flyleaf, missing 7, 15, 19–22, 71–2, 81–3, 103, 105–12, 117–35, 137–42, 145–60, misplaced leaf 119 now first flyleaf); red leather BL binding.

Guild Records

There is no strict division of material in any of these categories: minute books generally contain only orders, admissions to freedom, and apprenticeships; account books only receipts and disbursements; but company books may combine the two.

Bakers' Company

BAKERS' COMPANY CHARTER

See under Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Company (p cxxvi) for BL: Harley MS 2054.

Beer-Brewers' Company

BEER-BREWERS' COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 3/2; 1606–38; English; paper; ii + 162 + i; 185mm x 290mm (text area variable); 17th-c. foliation (ff 1–22, 7 omitted) and modern (ff 25–38, 31 repeated), final 126 leaves unnumbered (except ff 105v, 119, 123, 128, 130, 135 in modern pencil); original vellum binding.

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Company

BOWYERS', FLETCHERS', COOPERS', AND STRINGERS' COMPANY MEMORANDUM

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/23; 20 April 1422; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 146mm x 316mm (82mm x 295mm); fair MS condition, some holes; remnants of red sealing wax at top middle and top left corner.

BOWYERS', FLETCHERS', COOPERS', AND STRINGERS' ORDER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/19; 12 March 1467/8; English; parchment; single membrane; 265mm x 312mm (210mm x 275mm); faded, some holes resulting in loss of text; 21 seals or traces of seals, including mayoralty seal, on 7 seal tags, endorsement of additional regulation regarding pricing of arrows.

BOWYERS', FLETCHERS', COOPERS', AND STRINGERS' COMPANY BOOK

The heading on f [1] says that the book was made on 18 February 1567/8. This probably relates to ff [1–6] which list the musters, gospel readings, oaths, and one order, neatly copied in two scripts – possibly one hand. The consecutive listing of orders begins on f [7] with the first order dated 21 November 1574. The latter probably marks the beginning of the book, with ff [1–6] inserted from an earlier book, with irrelevant prefatory material excised.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/1; 1568–1777; English; paper; 40 leaves (last 9 leaves blank, f [32] has been cut in half vertically); 270mm x 175mm; collation irregular (5 leaves missing, cut out, at the start), 2 folded strips of parchment attached to the ends of the first and last gatherings, cut from service book; unnumbered; decorated initial capital on f [1]; older brown leather stuck on board binding (not original since the boards have 4 stitchings not related to the MS).

BOWYERS', FLETCHERS', COOPERS', AND STRINGERS' ACCOUNTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/28; 1568–1611; English; paper; 60 leaves; 305mm x 210mm (280mm x 180mm); unnumbered; modern paper cover.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/32/1; 13 January 1611/12–13

January 1614/15; English and Latin; paper; 10 leaves; 309mm x 204mm (text area variable); contemporary ink foliation.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/32/4; 13 January 1614/15–13 January 1619/20; English; paper; 18 leaves; 308mm x 203mm (text area variable); contemporary ink foliation.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 7/29; 1617–50; English; paper; 132 leaves; 290mm x 195mm (285mm x 140mm); unnumbered; original vellum binding.

Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Company

PETITION OF THE CAPPERS TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

London, British Library, Harley MS 1996; English; undated (1523–4); paper; single sheet; 250mm x 284mm (200mm x 252mm); originally folded over 10 times with endorsement on outward face. Original petition bound as f 120 in BL: Harley MS 1996, a volume of 17th-c. antiquarian notes 'of severall companyes in Chester.'

CAPPERS', PINNERS', WIRE-DRAWERS', AND LINEN-DRAPERS' ORDERS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 6/1; 1585–1607; English; paper; 34 leaves; 285mm x 185mm (235mm x 125mm); irregular modern pencil pagination 1–19, p 20 unnumbered, and the ensuing leaves foliated 20–38, with 30v numbered 31, folios following f 38 are numbered 59–62, and f 62v is numbered 62a, remaining folios unnumbered (manuscript numbering ignored in favour of editorially assigned folio numbers); modern board binding.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 6/2; 1589–1974; English; paper; 153 leaves; 290mm x 190mm; unnumbered (ff 10v–13v, 17–26v, 29v–42v, 59v–73, 140v–153 blank); ff 80–93 cut back to form guards to which admissions certificates have been attached, some of which are parchment; original vellum wrapper with leather tie.

LINEN-DRAPERS' PETITION TO SEVER COMPANIES IN A GUILD (AC)

Additional MS 16179 is titled 'Extracts from the Registers and other documents of the city of Chester.'

London, British Library, Additional MS 16179; 18th c.; English; paper; i + 90 + i; 316mm x 196mm (299mm x 159mm); modern pencil foliation (first 3 leaves unnumbered); dappled brown binding with leather on corners and spine.

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Company

CORDWAINERS' AND SHOEMAKERS' ACCOUNTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 8/2; 1547–98; English; paper;

iv + 124 + iii; 295mm x 210mm (280mm x 155mm); modern pencil foliation; original vellum binding.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 8/3; 1598–1615; English; paper; 100 leaves; 290mm x 185mm (275mm x 170mm); modern pencil foliation; original vellum binding. Includes memoranda of orders.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 8/4; 1615–77; English; paper; iii + 260; 292mm x 195mm (280mm x 155mm); modern pencil foliation; much worn at corners, with water damage and tear at ff 259–60; remains of original front cover and spine with three of the original leather ties in place, back cover missing. Accounts to 1624 are by George Bellin.

There is one guild waste book, 1639–44, that survives at Chester (CCALS: ZG 8/8). It is an interesting document because it contains notations of expenditures, minutes at meetings, and other data written in a rough and sometimes disorderly hand. The data from this waste book was then transcribed in a more orderly and careful fashion in the company account book, CCALS: ZG 8/4.

CORDWAINERS' AND SHOEMAKERS' SHROVETIDE ORDER

Chester, Company MS; 19 March 1582/3; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 330mm x 406mm (272mm x 385mm). The order has not previously been deposited at the CCALS, and is kept in a folder of unnumbered documents labelled '23/1–9 Miscellanea 1499–[c.1595].'

Drawers of Dee's Company

DRAWERS OF DEE'S COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 10/1; 1572–1712; English; paper; 57 leaves; 290mm x 195mm (text area variable); 18th-c. ink pagination (first 6 leaves unpaginated); badly water-damaged, many pages illegible, each leaf repaired with silk; modern binding. Except for the prefatory remarks, the book seems to date from *c* 1597. Most of the accounts between 1623–4 (p 52) and 1641–2 (p 56) are missing.

Glovers' Company

WET AND DRY GLOVERS' COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 11/1; 1629–1968 (incorporating guild orders from 1571 onward); English; parchment (first 11 leaves) and paper; ii + 565; 340mm x 215mm (text area variable); 17th-c. ink foliation (first 40 leaves), 19th-c. ink pagination, followed here (first 262 leaves), rest of MS unnumbered and mostly blank; original leather binding with tooled design.

Goldsmiths' Company

GOLDSMITHS' MINUTES

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 12/1; 1573–1702; English; parchment; viii + 48; 265mm x 220mm (200mm x 155mm); modern pencil pagination; 18th-c. binding with tooled leather, back cover bears the date '1723' and the front '1523' (the '5' shows marks of having been either repaired or added over another number).

Innkeepers' Company

INNKEEPERS' COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/1; 1571–2003; English; paper; 146 leaves; 270mm x 200mm (text area variable); unnumbered; original vellum binding. The orders are in the hand of William Bedford; the book itself dates to the early 1620s when the early orders were copied.

INNKEEPERS' ACCOUNTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/38; 1583–1603; English; paper; iii + 60 + iii; 320mm x 215mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; rebound and repaired with silk, original leather cover over new boards.

INNKEEPERS' COMPANY LOOSE FINANCIAL PAPERS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/43; October 1604–5; English; paper; bifolium; 285mm x 180mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1609–10; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1610–11; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered; badly torn on left of recto, removing sums under 'disbursements' on verso.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1612–13; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1613–14; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1620–1; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1623–4; English; paper; single sheet; 350mm x 196mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1629–30; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1630–1; English; paper; bifolium; 350mm x 196mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1633–4; English; paper; bifolium; 320mm x 198mm; unnumbered; folded in 4 horizontally.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1635–6; English; paper; bifolium; 302mm x 200mm; unnumbered; folded in 4 horizontally.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1636–7; English; paper; single sheet; 200mm x 150mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/42; 1642; English; paper; single sheet; 313mm x 197mm; folded in 4 horizontally.

MAYOR'S PETITION TO THE INNHOLDERS, COOKS, AND VICTUALLERS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 13/46; 20 July 1610; English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 250mm; folded in 4, verso grimy.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company

JOINERS', CARVERS', AND TURNERS' COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 14/1; 1576–1756; English; paper; 354 leaves; 415mm x 280mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; repaired; original leather binding pasted onto modern binding.

JOINERS', CARVERS', AND TURNERS' MINUTES

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 14/2; 1615–1726; English; paper; 217 leaves; 290mm x 190mm; contemporary ink pagination, 1–405, modern ink pagination 405, final 14 leaves unpaginated; original binding, parchment on card, spine becoming detached. Motions and memoranda are marked by sequential lettering in left margin (ie, 'A' for the first item of business, 'B' for second); these letters have not been transcribed here.

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company

MERCERS', IRONMONGERS', GROCERS', AND APOTHECARIES' COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 16/6582/2; 1606–67; English; paper; ii + 498 + ii; 290mm x 185mm (235mm x 155mm); modern pencil pagination; original brown leather binding.

Merchant Drapers' Company

MERCHANT DRAPERS' COMPANY BOOK

Windermere, Company MS; 1637–1877; English; paper; xii + 401; 355mm x 225mm; 17th/18th-c. foliation, ff 9–51 (ff i–xii blank; ff 1–8 original orders, undated, and bound in from another source); leaves crumbling at edges with loss of original foliation; original binding, brown leather on boards.

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Company

PAINTERS', GLAZIERS', EMBROIDERERS', AND STATIONERS' COMPANY CHARTER

London, British Library, Harley MS 2054; 1 May 1584; English; paper (repaired and covered with conservation tissue); single sheet; 305mm x 196mm (290mm x 160mm); left edge obscured by binding. Original charter bound in reverse as ff 87–7v in BL: Harley MS 2054 (p cxxvi) so that the recto of the original is f 87v.

PAINTERS', GLAZIERS', EMBROIDERERS', AND STATIONERS' ACCOUNTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 17/1; 1567–1690; English; paper; i + 158 + i; 291mm x 200mm (280mm x 170mm); unnumbered; some rubrication and decorated initial capitals; 18th-c. (?) binding, leather on boards, front cover detached.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 17/2; 1604–1862; English; vellum and paper; 14 (vellum) + 250 (paper) leaves; 295mm x 180mm (280mm x 150mm); unnumbered (editorially assigned numbering begins with the first paper leaf); original binding, brown leather on boards, embossed on front: 'This Booke Was Made In The Yeare Of Ovr Lord God MDCXXI | Mr Randall Holme | Iohn Walker Aldermen | Peter Ince | Stewards | Iohn Sayer,' and on back: 'Restored to Use 1886. | Thomas Clarke | John Owen Jepson | Aldermen | Daniel Sconce | James Aaron White | Stewards.'

PAINTERS', GLAZIERS', EMBROIDERERS', AND STATIONERS' ROUGH MINUTES

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 63/2/131; 1624–51; English; paper; i + 88 + i; 192mm x 142mm; modern pencil foliation; original leather cover. Bookplate on the verso of the front cover records its deposit in the archives by the duke of Westminster.

Saddlers' and Curriers' Company

SADDLERS' AND CURRIERS' COMPANY CHARTER

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/144; 1471–2; Latin and English; paper; 9 membranes attached at top; 780–860mm x 285–90mm (705–20mm x 235mm); unnumbered; some membranes written continuously, some from top on both sides.

SADDLERS' AND CURRIERS' COMPANY BOOK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 18/1; 1640–1956; English; paper; 249 leaves; 295mm x 180mm; unnumbered; 20th-c. binding.

Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Company

SMITHS', CUTLERS', AND PLUMBERS' ACCOUNTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZG 20/1; 1490–1902; English; vellum and paper; ii + 310; 515mm x 205mm (text area variable); contemporary ink foliation 1–10, modern pencil pagination 11–429 (final 92 leaves blank and unnumbered); original binding, brown leather on board, repaired, with modern spine repair (remains of original leather spine kept in folder with MS), 3 clasp studs on cover with cognate hinges on back cover.

SMITHS', CUTLERS', AND PLUMBERS' ACCOUNTS (AC)

The company accounts and orders are on ff 14v–27 of a volume titled 'notes & chartres, with seuerall things which concerne the Companyes and occupations within the city of chester,' mostly in Randle Holme II's hand.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2054; 1514–1699; English and Latin; paper; 101 leaves; largest 310mm x 200mm, smallest 65mm x 250mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation, older pencil foliation (65–181) on f 3 to last unnumbered blank (2 unnumbered blanks between ff 57–8, 1 unnumbered blank between ff 62–3 and f 101–first flyleaf); mostly single leaves attached to modern binding strips; sporadic drawings of seals; BL binding with dark red leather on corners and spine.

Miscellaneous Guild Record

LIST OF GUILDS IN PROCESSION (AC)

London, British Library, Harley MS 2104; 17th c.; English and Latin; paper; iii + 220 + iv; 320mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation correcting earlier ink foliation; mostly single leaves bound together; brown leather BL binding.

Judicial Records

Great Sessions Records

GREAT SESSIONS ORDER

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/96/2; 1565–6; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 75mm x 170mm (text area measurements unavailable due to conservation restrictions); left side badly damaged by damp and vermin. Attached at the top by a modern string to seventy-four other documents.

GREAT SESSIONS PRESENTMENTS

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 1618–19; English and Latin; parchment; 2 membranes, sewn at top; 787mm x 369mm (758mm x 364mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments E to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

GREAT SESSIONS MEMORANDUM CONCERNING BAIL

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/1; 1619–20; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 800mm x 370mm (text area variable); continuous text both sides; dirty. Attached at the top to 120 membranes (individual documents and some sheets of paper) with a parchment tag.

FIDDLING AT A GRAND JURY DINNER

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/126/3; 22 April 1642; English; paper; single sheet; 265mm x 200mm (208mm x 180mm); torn at top. Attached by string to numerous other parchment and paper documents in a roll.

Examinations of John Boland and Richard Case

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 15/2; 9 May 1570; English; paper; 9 leaves; 315mm x 210mm (text area variable); unnumbered; sewn together in bundle with other documents of same case, with small tag attached, marked with 'N' in later hand, and note 'Chest*er* 1570 12 Eliz*abeth*.' Kept in a large box with other bundles.

Quarter Sessions Records

QUARTER SESSIONS EXAMINATIONS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 26/8; 28 December 1571; English; paper; bifolium; 280mm x 195mm (267mm x 147mm); unnumbered; approximately 45mm x 80mm torn from bottom right resulting in loss of text.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 30/71; 24 June 1577; English; paper;

bifolium; 370mm x 250mm; unnumbered; some loss of text (original size of f [1] obscured by restoration, f [2] cut at bottom).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 34/48; 2 January 1582/3; English; paper; bifolium; 303mm x 208mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 34/46; 21 January 1582/3; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 295mm x 208mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 36/103; 23 June 1586; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 250mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 3/84; 30 October 1588; English; paper; bifolium; 298mm x 204mm; unnumbered; repaired damage at bottom right.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 40/21; 28 May 1591; English; paper; bifolium; 298mm x 203mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 5/46; 4 October 1594; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 205mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 5/82; 6 May 1597; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 148mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 51/63; 11 October 1602; English; paper; single sheet; 280mm x 171mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 51/55; 1602; English; paper; single sheet; 297mm x 193mm; writing on verso reversed; large triangular tear at top left corner, removing part of verso text.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 51/57; 23 November 1602; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 200mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 51/58; 23 November 1602; English; paper; bifolium; 303mm x 203mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 55/75; 23 February 1607/8; English; paper; single sheet; 198mm x 195mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 9/2; 21 October 1609; English; paper; bifolium; 306mm x 205mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 9/8; 31 October 1609; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 200mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 9/69; 30 June 1610; English; paper; single sheet; 305mm x 200mm; verso text reversed.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 61/16; 1612–13; Latin and English; paper; bifolium; 275mm x 165mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 61/44; 8 December 1612; English; paper; single sheet; 308mm x 202mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 61/47; 10 December 1612; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 310mm x 200mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 61/84; 21 April 1613; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 272mm x 170mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 61/131; 20 September 1613; English; paper; bifolium; 275mm x 165mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 13/25; 29 June 1616; English; paper; bifolium; 285mm x 170mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 66/50; 17 October 1617; English; paper; bifolium; 270mm x 195mm; unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 67 [6]; 10 August 1620; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 272mm x 181mm; folded, damage to edges of sheet resulting in loss of text. Contrary to practice in all other years, the twenty-four documents in the ZQSF 67 series have been stitched at the top with modern thread and attached to an outer oilcloth cover to form a roll. Documents are not numbered and this sheet has been editorially assigned a number according to its place in the sequence.

QUARTER SESSIONS DEPOSITIONS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 29/122; 23 March 1574/5; English; paper; single sheet; 450mm x 228–357mm; torn at edges, heavy staining to left side, major damage at bottom right, some holes.

QUARTER SESSIONS PERSONAL RESPONSE

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 36/58; 5 November 1585; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 210mm; unnumbered; written on ff [1–1v] only.

QUARTER SESSIONS PRESENTMENTS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 40/28; 22 July 1591; English; paper; single sheet; 400mm x 250mm maximum; fragmentary, with extensive loss on right and bottom.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 63/33; 1614–15; English; paper; single sheet; 290mm x 205mm.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 72/4; 1627–8; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 101mm; unnumbered; top of document, with heading, lost.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 77/52; 17 August 1641; English; paper; bifolium; 395mm x 150mm; unnumbered. ZQSF 77/51–3 constitute a single document, attached to a single guard, a booklet of 6 leaves formed from 3 folded sheets, each of which bears a separate conservator's number. The sheets are sewn together with modern thread, but original stitch-holes are visible. At some time in its history the booklet was folded width-ways and the fold has suffered material loss (triangular tear on f 1, which extends to the other folios) at its middle outer edge.

Complaint of Richard Grosvenor, Jr, and William Barlowe v. William Nevett et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 8/156/22; 6 March 1615/16; English with Latin dating; parchment; 2 membranes; smaller membrane: 118mm x 320mm (70mm x 280mm), larger membrane: 490mm x 635mm (450mm x 605mm); unnumbered; written on 1 side only.

Wills and Inventories

For many of the testators whose wills are listed here, little is known beyond their names and the date of their wills. Where further information is available it is included as a headnote.

INVENTORY OF THOMAS GLAZIER, GENTLEMAN

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1558 (Thomas Glasier of Chester, gentleman); 1558; English; paper; bifolium; 40mm x 152mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

INVENTORY OF JOHN COWPER, ALDERMAN

John Cowper was sheriff of Chester in 1554–5. His widow subsequently married John Bruen of Bruen Stapleford.[12]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1579 (John Cooper of Chester); 15 July 1579; English; parchment; 9 membranes sewn together end to end; 355–580mm x 260mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

WILL OF JOHN COPPOCK, GENTLEMAN

Coppock's will is in the bishops' register which contains a variety of information relevant to the diocese, including a number of wills.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDA 2/2; 1579–1647; Latin and English; paper; xvii + 349; 374mm x 266mm (text area variable); contemporary ink foliation to f 260, then pagination to p 307, and foliation ff 308–80 (so that folio numbers appear on the verso of each leaf); some enlarged headings; some fraying of edges of early folios; booklets bound together in brown leather and board binding (spine broken, front cover broken off, very worn).

This MS also contains entries for Booth of Dunham Massey, Calveley of Lea, and Hardware of Peele.

INVENTORY OF WILLIAM GLAZIER, ESQUIRE

The line of Glazier of Lea begins with William Glazier, a native of the Isle of Man, sheriff of Chester 1537–8, and mayor of Chester 1551–2. His son and heir was the William Glazier of the following inventory. He was vice-chamberlain of Chester 1559–65 and MP for Chester in 1571 and 1572.[13]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WI 1588 (Wm Glaseor of Chester); 17 January 1588/9; English; paper; 16 leaves; 405mm x 150mm (385mm x 120mm); unnumbered; sewn at spine with parchment to make booklet.

INVENTORY OF HUGH BELLOTT, BISHOP OF CHESTER

Hugh Bellott was a doctor of divinity and bishop of Bangor prior to being translated to Chester in 1595. He died at Whitsuntide 1596. He was the second son of Thomas Bellott of Moreton. His brother, Cuthbert, was archdeacon of Chester from 1596 to 1619.[14]

The damage to the inventory removes large sections of the text. More was evidently visible when the inventory was transcribed in 1861.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1596 (Hugh Bellott; Bishop of Chester); 24 June 1596; English; paper; 6 leaves; 300mm x 250mm; unnumbered; damaged and repaired; disbound and attached to card.

INVENTORY OF WILLIAM MADOCK, WAIT

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1604 (William Maddock of Chester); 4 September 1604; English; paper; bifolium; 345mm x 142mm (323mm x 100mm); unnumbered; folded several times, reasonably good condition, some fading.

INVENTORY OF JOHN MADOCK, GENTLEMAN

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1605 (John Maddock of Chester); undated (1605); English; paper; bifolium; 404mm x 158mm (text area variable); unnumbered. Attached by string to probate document dated 21 August 1605.

INVENTORY OF RICHARD WRIGHT

A Richard Wright was sheriff of Chester in 1572–3.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1613 (Richard Wright of Chester); 14 March 1613/14; English; paper; bifolium; 391mm x 155mm (text area variable); text pp 1–3 only; unnumbered.

INVENTORY OF JAMES DOWSON, SCHOOLMASTER

James Dowson was master of the King's School, Chester. His will of 14 December 1615 (codicil 14 April 1617) asks that he be buried 'with the whole Quere, so devoutlye as beco*m*eth my degree.' The will was proved on 6 May 1617.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1617 (James Dowson of Chester, Schoolmaster); 9 May 1617; English; parchment; 3 membranes, stitched at top; mb [1]: 178mm x 797mm, mb [2]: 178mm x 777mm, mb [3]: 178mm x 393mm; each membrane written on 1 side only; unnumbered; good MS condition.

INVENTORY OF ROBERT RUTTER, DRAPER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1618 (Robert Rutter of Chester, draper); 12–14 May 1617 (inventory taken), 14 July 1618 (exhibition); English; parchment; 3 membranes, sewn together end to end; smallest 550mm x 177mm, largest 800mm x 170mm; unnumbered.

WILL OF JAMES MILLER, CLERK

James Miller appears as curate of St Mary on the Hill in Chester in 1570. By 1582–3 he was a minor canon and precentor at Chester Cathedral, and the rector of St Michael's Church, Chester, from 1605 until his death in 1618. He evidently took overall responsibility for the 1607 copy of the Whitsun Plays (MS H) and his is the third and majority hand in the manuscript, which also includes a musical score for the 'Gloria' in the play of 'The Shepherds.' He also wrote the cathedral statutes in BL: Harley MS 2015.[15]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1618 (James Miller of Chester, clerk); 22 July 1617; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 200mm; unnumbered.

INVENTORY OF JAMES MILLER, CLERK

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1618 (James Miller of Chester, clerk); 27 July 1618; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 200mm; unnumbered.

INVENTORY OF JOHN BLANCHARD, BREWER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1624 (John Blanchard of Chester, brewer); 9 November 1624; English; parchment; 3 membranes; smallest 280mm x 150mm (uneven cut), largest 460mm x 171mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

INVENTORY OF ERASMUS PRICE, BREWER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1630 (Erasmus Price of Chester, brewer);

7 June 1630; English; parchment; 2 strips of parchment sewn together at sides (original), and folded at seam, also folded horizontally, originally folded several more times vertically and horizontally; 552mm x 141mm (text area variable); unnumbered; written on inner surface only.

INVENTORY OF CHARLES FITTON, ALDERMAN

Charles Fitton was sheriff of Chester in 1609–10 and mayor in 1617–18.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1633 (Charles Fitton of Chester, alderman); 15 October 1633; English; parchment; 3 membranes, sewn together end to end with string; 1810mm x 144mm (edges uneven); unnumbered; 'A True' enlarged, also 'Imprimis' (less so); folded 6 times, some fraying at folds, ink faded.

INVENTORY OF ROBERT BLEASE, APOTHECARY

A Robert Blease was sheriff of Chester in 1605–6.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1633 (Robert Blease of Chester, apothecary); 30 November 1633; English and Latin; paper; 20 leaves; 387mm x 151mm; modern pencil pagination; some damage to outer leaves, especially front, dirty; sewn with string.

INVENTORY OF THOMAS JONES, INNHOLDER

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1637 (Thomas Jones of Chester, Innholder); 11 August 1637; English; parchment; 2 membranes, sewn together end to end; 830mm x 240mm (700mm x 230mm); unnumbered; written on 1 side only.

Minstrels' Court Records

The right to licence minstrels in the county of Cheshire was vested in the Dutton family (see pp xxxi–xxxii). The licensing ceremony was held in Chester and the relevant documents are transcribed under the city records rather than those of the Dutton family. Accepting the historical truth of the origins of the privilege, the date of the original grant can be approximately determined by collating the dates of King John (1167–1216); the 7th earl of Chester, Ranulph de Blundeville (1170–1232); and his constable, Roger de Lacy, who succeeded his father in the post in April 1199 and died on 1 October 1211 (see also p 994, endnote to Bodl.: MS. Rawlinson B. 282 ff 54–4v).

The original grant was devolved from Roger de Lacy to his tenant, Hugh Dutton, and from then remained in the Dutton family. As the privilege was hereditary references were made to it in inquisitions post mortem on the Dutton family. TNA: PRO CHES 2/149, 2/155, and 2/161 transfer to local officials the Duttons' privilege to hold the minstrels' court. During the Dutton heir's minority the minstrels' court resided in the crown prince as earl of Chester.

On the history and form of the court, see pp lviii–lxi.

Inquisition Post Mortem for Sir Hugh de Dutton

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, C 133/70 (1); 1294–5; Latin; parchment; single membrane (second of eight related membranes); 154mm x 200mm (150mm x 196mm); torn at left bottom edge resulting in loss of text.

Enrolments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/105; 1433; Latin; parchment; 9 membranes; average 860mm x 292mm (780mm x 240mm); antiquarian ink numbering; written on both sides, from top; 2 extra membranes sewn to mb 7 to form cover, modern fastening tag at top.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/119; 1445–6; Latin; parchment; 10 membranes; largest 881mm x 301mm, smallest 380mm x 300mm (text area variable); antiquarian ink numbering; some membranes written on both sides, top to bottom; some damaged and repaired; attached at top with modern string, 2 extra pieces of parchment sewn to bottom of mb 10 as wrapping, tag.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/146; 1474–5; Latin; parchment; 12 membranes; largest 900mm x 275mm, smallest 445mm x 282mm (text area variable); antiquarian ink numbering; some membranes written both sides, top to bottom; extra sheet of parchment sewn to mb 12 as cover, fastened at top with modern tag.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/149; 1476–8; Latin and English; parchment; 11 membranes, attached at top; 665–850mm x 285mm (text area variable); antiquarian ink numbering; some membranes written continuously, some written from top on both sides; antiquarian parchment cover.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/151; 1479; Latin, English, and Anglo-Norman; parchment; 6 membranes, attached at top; 570–820mm x 295mm (text area variable); antiquarian ink numbering; written continuously; antiquarian parchment cover.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/152; 1480–1; Latin; parchment; 11 membranes, attached at top with modern tag; average 855mm x 283mm (675mm x 225mm); antiquarian ink numbering; written on both sides, top to bottom; extra 2 membranes sewn together to form cover (extra membrane also sewn to mb 4), former cover attached at top.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 2/166; 1495–6; Latin and English; parchment; 6 membranes, attached at top; 660–790mm x 280mm (text area variable); antiquarian ink numbering; written continuously; antiquarian parchment cover.

Dutton Family Holdings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DDX 23/1; *c* 1534; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 307mm x 220mm (text area variable); unnumbered; previously folded, some fraying and staining but overall good condition.

Grant to Sir Piers Dutton

The topographical and geographical collections of Roger Dodsworth (*c* 1585–1654) contain notes and extracts from a variety of sources, including public records, private muniments, church monuments, wills, and cartularies. They constitute the 'largest single body of research materials to survive from seventeenth-century England.'[16] Dodsworth's work originally concentrated on Yorkshire but later expanded to include the whole country. He collaborated with Dugdale on the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, which was published after Dodsworth's death. His MSS were left to his patron, Sir Thomas Fairfax, who in turn left them to the Bodleian Library in 1673.

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Dodsworth 39; 1535–6; English; paper; xi + 157; 300mm x 190mm (text area variable); 17th-c. ink foliation and modern pencil foliation on early folios; bound together with Dodsworth 40 in a brown leather and board binding (spine broken).

William Smith's Description of Chester (AC)

The origin of the Dutton magistracy of minstrels is explained by William Smith (1550?–1618) in his 'Description of Cheshire,' an account of the city and county, later published by Daniel King in *Vale-Royall* in 1656 (see pp 51–2).

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Rawlinson B. 282; 1588; English; paper; ii + 118 + i; 197mm x 157mm (157mm x 110mm); modern pencil foliation, also earlier original foliation in red (modern foliation has rearranged order of some folios); red lines for margins, red ink in headings and marginalia, illustrations of shields in colour; parchment binding, spine broken at front cover, parchment stitched to paper lining.

Peter Leycester's Historical Antiquities (AC)

Sir Peter Leycester was born in 1614 at Nether Tabley, Cheshire, and educated at Oxford and Gray's Inn. He served as a king's commissioner of array for Cheshire at the start of the Civil War. A royalist supporter, he was given a baronetcy in 1660. His antiquarian researches began in the later 1640s following his loss of public office and culminated in his two-volume *Historical Antiquities* which was published in 1673. The second volume deals with Cheshire, especially Bucklow hundred, which also survives in the manuscript, CCALS: DLT/B 3. Leycester died at Nether Tabley in 1678, leaving a large library of manuscripts and books.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DLT/B 3 (Tabley Liber C); 17th c.; English and Latin; paper; ii + 368 + ii; 280mm x 185mm (255mm x 140mm); 17th-c. ink foliation (Part I, ff 1–53; Part II, ff 11–326); some coloured drawings of arms; 17th-c. brown leather binding, 1 clasp and hinge of another.

Peter Leycester, *Historical Antiquities* (AC)

Historical Antiquities | IN TWO BOOKS. | The First Treating in General | OF | Great-BRETTAIN |

AND | IRELAND. | The Second Containing | Particular Remarks | CONCERNING | CHESHIRE | [rule] | Faithfully Collected out of | Authentick Histories, Old Deeds, Records, and Evidences, | BY | Sir *PETER LEYCESTER* Baronet. | [rule] | Whereunto is annexed | A Transcript of *DOOMSDAY-BOOK*, so far as it | concerneth *CHESHIRE*, taken out of the | *Original Record.* | [rule] | *Frustra fit plura, quod potest fieri per panciora.* | [rule] | *LONDON*, | Printed by *W.L.* for *Robert Clavell*, in *Cross-Key Court* in *Little-Britain.* | M.DC.LXXIII. Wing: L1943.

Summons to Laurence Dutton

Although this source is late it gives the text of a summons for Laurence Dutton to prove his claim to the advowry or magistracy of minstrels. This claim was recognized in subsequent acts against vagabonds.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 3991/357; 1735–71; Latin and English; paper; i + 174 + i; 292mm x 191mm (265mm x 140mm); contemporary ink pagination beginning on eleventh leaf through to p 274 (first 10 folios unnumbered, pp [275–328] blank and unnumbered); some illustrations of coats of arms; good condition; parchment binding.

Letters of Christopher Goodman

Christopher Goodman (*c* 1521–1602) was a noted Puritan divine and one of the translators of the Geneva Bible. He was born in Chester, son of William Goodman, a merchant, and was educated there before going to Oxford where he gained his MA in 1544 and BD in 1551. He became Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity around 1548 but was forced into exile on Mary's accession, first to Strasburg, then to Frankfurt, and finally to Geneva where he renewed his friendship with John Knox and became pastor to the English exiles in the city. He published his book *How Superior Powers Oght to be Obeyd* in 1558 in tandem with John Knox's *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women.* The unfortunate coincidence of these publications with Elizabeth's accession meant that, on his return from the continent, he ministered first in Scotland and subsequently in Ireland as chaplain to Sir Henry Sidney. In 1568 he returned to Chester. He became vicar of Aldford in 1570 and archdeacon of Richmond in 1574. In 1571 he was brought before the ecclesiastical commissioners for non-conformity and recanted his published opinions, swearing obedience to the queen. In 1580–1 he was made a freeman of Chester, where he had family connections to a number of county families, including the Duttons.

The following three documents from the Plas Power collection were among the papers deposited in the Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies by the Chester solicitors Birch, Cullimore, and Douglas and subsequently transferred from the Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies to the Denbighshire Record Office (then the Clwyd Record Office) at Ruthin. Nothing more is known of the collection's history. We have not traced the replies to this correspondence.

Letterbook of Christopher Goodman

Ruthin, Denbighshire Record Office, DD/PP/839; *c* 1539–1601, with some undated items; Latin and English; paper; 172 leaves; 370mm x 195mm; contemporary pagination 1–184 (the Goodman material), with first 4 and final 160 pages unnumbered; modern white board binding. Contains copies of letters to and from Christopher Goodman (1518–1603), together with various theological discussions, sermons, petitions, declarations, and the answer of Stephen Gardiner to the six articles (*c* 1539), 125 items; Goodman material in one hand of the 17th c., with, additionally, in different hands, notes on Goodman (p 21, below text) and declarations and letters relating to Wales (pp 271–80).

This book also contains an entry for the County of Cheshire.

Draft Letter of Christopher Goodman to Sir John Savage

Ruthin, Denbighshire Record Office, DD/PP/843; 1575; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 210mm (f [1]: 277mm x 170mm; f [1v]: 100mm x 164mm); unnumbered; at some time folded in 4, with f [2v] external and consequently grimy; endorsed: 'A draught [The copy] of my letter intended to the Maior & his brethern for stay⟨...⟩ of the plays.'

Letter of Christopher Goodman to the Earl of Derby

Ruthin, Denbighshire Record Office, DD/PP/844; 16 December 1583; English; paper; single sheet, roughly trimmed; 260mm x 157–75mm (244mm x 140mm); 3 horizontal fold marks; 1 hand, but with corrections in different ink.

Rogers' Breviaries (A)

See Appendix 4, pp 879–85, for a full discussion of the date of composition and authorship of the Breviaries.

CCALS: ZCX 3 (here Breviary 1) contains the title and 'To the Reader,' and in Chapter IV the order of entries is: the Shoemakers,' Saddlers,' and Married Persons' Homages to the Drapers, the Whitsun Plays, the Late Banns, the List of Companies and their Parts, the Midsummer Show, the Sheriffs' Breakfast, and in Chapter VIII a note on John Arneway and Ranulf Higden. The first of the folios numbered 1 reads '1609 Iuly: 3 I began to write D Rogers' and the title 'A Breuary or some fewe Collectiones of the Cittie of Chester . gathered out of some fewe writers, and heare set down. And reduced into these Chapters followinge,' followed by a descriptive listing of chapters. The provenance of ZCX 3 is uncertain before the mid-nineteenth century. The inscription on the flyleaf indicates that the volume was in the possession of George Wilbraham of Delamere House, Cheshire, in 1849, and it was still reported to be there in 1874.[17] It is not clear when it entered the city archives. Mrs Elizabeth Berry, former archivist at Chester, reported that the volume was not in the list of corporation records compiled by Fergusson Irvine in 1906, but that the volume was rebound by Mr Lamacraft in October 1938. Since there is no reference to the volume in the corporation minutes between 1906 and 1938, where other gifts and purchases are recorded, it is possible either that Irvine overlooked it or that it was acquired between these dates but not entered in the minutes.

The contents of BL: Harley MS 1944 (here Breviary 2) are identical with those of CCALS: ZCX 3. Harley MS 1944 apparently entered the Holme collection in the seventeenth century and remained there until it was incorporated with the rest into the Harley collection.

CCALS: DCC 19 (here Breviary 3) revises the title, omits the 'To the Reader' and the Late Banns, and adds new sections on the St George's Day race and the Christmas Watches. The order of entries is as follows: the Shoemakers', Saddlers', and Married Persons' Homages to the Drapers (minor revisions with additional material at the end), the Sheriffs' Breakfast (revised), the St George's Day race (1609 version), the Midsummer Show (revised), the Christmas Watches, the Whitsun Plays (revised), the List of Companies and their Parts, and in Chapter VIII a note on Arneway and Higden (revised). DCC 19 was a part of the Cowper collection accumulated by Dr William Cowper of Overleigh (1701–67), an antiquarian and mayor of Chester. The collection remained at Overleigh until *c* 1816 when Charles Cholmondeley inherited it and removed it to Condover. The MS was reported to be in the Cholmondeley collection in 1876 and was sold along with the remainder of the collection *c* 1898.[18] The volume was purchased by the Cheshire Record Office in August 1950 from the executors of Lady Annabel Crewe.

BL: Harley MS 1948 (here Breviary 4) revises the title, but otherwise follows CCALS: DCC 19 in omitting the preface and Late Banns. It is almost the same as CCALS: DCC 19 throughout the initial entries, except for some revision and rearrangement at the end of the section on the Homages to the Drapers. The MS continues with, in order, the Sheriffs' Breakfast (revised), the Christmas Watches (revised), the Midsummer Show (revised), the St George's Day race (1623 version), the Whitsun Plays (revised), the List of Companies and their Parts, and omits the note at the end of Chapter VIII on Arneway and Higden. The provenance of Harley MS 1948 is the same as that of Harley MS 1944.

The Liverpool University Library MS 23.5 (Breviary 5) revises the title and omits the preface, the Late Banns, the Christmas Watches, and the Midsummer Show. It nearly duplicates CCALS: ZCX 3 and Harley MS 1944 in the entry on the Homages to the Drapers, except that it contains the poem from DCC 19 at the beginning, while omitting the continuations which appear in both DCC 19 and Harley 1948. It continues with the Sheriffs' Breakfast (revised), the St George's Day race (revised 1623 version), the Whitsun Plays (revised), and the List of Companies and their Parts. The Revs. Samuel and Daniel Lysons printed their *Magna Britannia* in 1810 and said that the manuscript, now deposited at Liverpool University, was in the possession of William Nichols of Chester; however the bookplate says that J.P. Earwaker sold this and other volumes from George Folliott's collection at Stanley Place, Chester, on 1 August 1810. There can be no question that the volume used by the Lysons is the same as the Folliott volume; consequently they must have seen the book when it belonged to Nichols and it must have passed shortly afterward to Folliott, who then sold it in 1810, or they must have learned that it had been recently sold to Nichols as they were seeing their book through the press. In 1930 the volume was sold by B. Halliday of Leicester to an unnamed person interested in the history of Cheshire.[19] The volume disappeared until it was reported in the Historical Manuscript Commission Reports as a new acquisition by the University of Liverpool.[20]

(Breviary 1)

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCX 3; 1609; English; paper; iv + 123 + iii; 290mm x 185mm (260mm x 140mm); original pagination to 138, after which modern pencil foliation to 123 (2 unnumbered original leaves, 1 at the beginning and the other at the end of the MS; first 2 leaves both numbered 1); most leaves have running titles and catchwords; modern green half-leather and cardboard binding.

Various sections of ZCX 3 have been collated with the following four Breviary manuscripts: BL: Harley MS 1944, CCALS: DCC 19, BL: Harley MS 1948, Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5. Collation MSS also include BL: Harley MS 2150, BL: Harley MS 2125, BL: Additional MS 11335, BL: Additional MS 29779; CCALS: DLT/B 37 (see pp cx, cxi, cxiii, cxl), and BL: Harley MS 2013 and Bodl.: MS. Bodley 175, below.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2013; 1600; English; paper; 250 leaves; 307mm x 195mm; pencil foliation 1* (a single sheet tipped into the front) and 1–205; some illumination in red ink; bound in brown leather, Harleian arms on front cover.

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodley 175; 1604; English; paper; ii + 176 + iii; 294mm x 190mm (279mm x 130mm); modern pencil foliation; excellent MS condition; contemporary leather binding, now resewn and conserved, title on inside front cover, in contemporary hand: 'Wm. Bedford's twenty four Pagea⟨...⟩ of Playes played by the twen⟨..⟩ four Crafts-Men of the City of Chester.'

(Breviary 2)

London, British Library, Harley MS 1944; *c* 1619; English; paper; i + 117 + i; 200mm x 145mm (approximately 200mm x 120mm); modern pencil foliation, correcting older ink foliation which runs 1–129 (f 3–end flyleaf; missing 61–7, 71, 107, 114, 126); coloured drawings of coats of arms; some damp-stained leaves; leaves pasted singly on modern binding strips, red leather BL binding on boards.

(Breviary 3)

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCC 19; *c* 1619; English; paper; iii + 125 + ii; 180mm x 140mm (165mm x 110mm); ink foliation; modern white vellum cover.

This MS has been collated with BL: Harley MS 1948 and is itself a collation MS for the record excerpted from CCALS: ZCX 3.

(Breviary 4)

London, British Library, Harley MS 1948; *c* 1624; English; paper; i + 151 + i; 193mm x 146mm (165mm x 116mm); modern pencil foliation correcting older ink numbers which run 1–15 (ff 3–17), 1–136 (ff 18–150), missing 7, 128, 134; some damp stains; brown cloth BL binding on boards, brown leather spine and corners.

This MS is also a collation MS for the records excerpted from CCALS: ZCX 3 and CCALS: DCC 19.

(Breviary 5)

Liverpool, Liverpool University Library, MS 23.5; *c* 1637; English; paper; 126 leaves; 285mm x 185mm (260mm x 155mm); modern pencil foliation (last 27 leaves unnumbered); catchwords on recto and verso of all folios; 17th-c. vellum binding.

This MS is also a collation MS for the records excerpted from CCALS: ZCX 3.

Miscellaneous Records

Liber Luciani

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodley 672; 1194–5; Latin; parchment; 198 leaves; 151mm x 108mm (108mm x 80mm); contemporary ink pagination 1–37 (beginning on f 2), later pencil foliation throughout; red ink used for marginalia and initial letters, some decorated capitals with red and green ink; some folios missing at end, rubbed and worn but generally good condition; white (now yellow-brown) leather and board binding, 4 holes drilled in front (possibly for book-plate), tab of fastener remains on front.

Request from Ringers for a Gratuity

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/E 314; 18 August 1624; English; paper; single sheet; 153mm x 187mm; subsequently folded in 3 vertically.

A Relation of a Short Survey of 26 Counties

London, British Library, Lansdowne MS 213; early 17th c.; English; paper; iii + 445 + iii; 275mm x 170mm (average text area 225mm x 125mm); modern pencil foliation replacing 2 contemporary foliations (one by individual sections); modern binding.

Deeds and Customs Concerning Chester (AC)

The miscellaneous items in BL: Harley MS 2150 were mostly copied by Randle Holme II. On the basis of the handwriting we estimate that the book may have been copied as late as the 1570s; however it could not have been copied before 1555–6 because the order banning Christmas breakfasts and mumming is in the same sixteenth-century hand as the majority of the document.

The arrangement of entries in Harley MS 2150 is roughly the same as that in the assembly book (CCALS: ZAB 1): gable rents (ff 82–3), the city wards (ff 83v–4), some materials from the terms of mayors Gee and Hope (ff 84v–5v), the Early Banns (ff 85v–8v), the city rental for 1533–4 (ff 88v–93v), and then a series of orders commencing with those for Henry Gee, 1539–40, but mixing in earlier ones. The assembly book contains some prefatory matter, including an Arneway List of Mayors (ML 28) which continues in the same hand to 1567–8. Subsequent entries include a description of the meres and boundaries of the city (ff 32–3), the names of the streets (ff 33v–5; copied by Rogers into his Breviaries), a description of the wards (ff 36–7), the gable rents (ff 38–40), the fees for various officials (to f 49), the calling of the Christmas Watch (f 52), the rental for 1533–4 (ff 53–7), the city charter (ff 58–9), and the orders which commence with Mayor Gee in 1539–40. The differences between the two make it apparent that one could not have been copied from the other; it is likely therefore that both were copied from one exemplar, which was in a state of disorder, or that they were copied from different exemplars, both of which were near-duplicate copies and were perhaps kept in different places for safety. We know that the exemplar of Harley MS 2150 or a copy of it existed as late as the seventeenth century because Randle Holme II made additional entries from a book he called the White Book of the Pentice (see p cvi).

London, British Library, Harley MS 2150; 16th–17th c.; English and Latin; paper; ii + 219 + ii; size of leaves variable, typically 305mm x 192mm; modern pencil foliation, partial ink foliation; mostly single sheets bound together, red leather BL binding.

Antiquarian Note on Chester Plays (AC)

The MS is one of the play texts, but the only item relevant here is the antiquarian note on the flyleaf.

London, British Library, Harley MS 2124; 1607; English; paper with vellum flyleaves; ii + 142 + ii; 190mm x 300mm (text area variable); modern arabic foliation and 17th-c. ink foliation (roman numerals, i–lviii; ff 59–62 misnumbered lxi–lxiv, f 63 to the end numbered in arabic by scribe); leaves usually pasted in pairs on modern binding strips (2 leaves missing), bound in tan leather, cover embossed with coat of arms of earl of Oxford.

Daniel King, *The Vale-Royall of England* (AC)

Daniel King published *The Vale-Royall of England or, The County Palatine of Chester* in 1656 but the work comprises three discrete sections written at earlier stages: the first and second – by Smith and Webb respectively – describe the city of Chester and the county of Cheshire, and the third, by James Chaloner, describes the Isle of Man. To Webb's account is appended an essay on the history of Chester digested from the preceding by Samuel Lee. In his *Sketch of the Materials for a New History of Cheshire*, Foote Gower states that Webb was a Cheshire man, a graduate of Oxford, who was for many years clerk to the mayor of Chester and in 1615 served as undersheriff to Sir Richard Lea of Lea and Dernhale in Kent. Gower affirms that he 'most probably made his Collections some where about 1600,' the date adopted here.[21]

THE | VALE-ROYALL | OF | ENGLAND | OR | The County Palatine of Chester | ILLUSTRATED. | Wherein is contained a *Geographical* and *Historical* | Description of that Famous County, with all its

Hundreds and *Seats* of | the *Nobility, Gentry,* and *Freeholders*; its Rivers, Towns, Castles, | Buildings *Ancient* and *Modern.* | Adorned with *Maps* and *Prospects*, and the | Coats of *Arms* belonging to every individual FAMILY | of the whole COUNTY. | [rule] | Performed by *William Smith,* and *William Webb,* Gentlemen. | PUBLISHED | By Mr. *DANIEL KING.* | [rule] | To which is annexed, | An Exact *Chronology* of all its *Rulers* and *Governors* | both in CHURCH and STATE, from the time of the Foundation | of the Stately City of *CHESTER*, to this very day: Fixed | by ECLIPSES, and other Chronological Characters. | ALSO, | An *Excellent Discourse* of the *Island* of MAN; | Treating of *the* Island. *Of the Inhabitants. Of the State Ecclesiasticall. Of the* | *Civil Government. Of the Trade;* and, *Of the Strength of the* Island | [rule] | *LONDON,* | Printed by *Iohn Streater,* in Little S. *Bartholomews,* and are to be sold at the | *Black-spread-Eagle* at the West-End of *Pauls*, 1656. Wing: K488.

Copy of a Players' Company Warrant (AC)

See under Audited City Treasurers' Accounts (p cv) for BL: Harley MS 2173.

Order of the Chester Show (AC)

See under Mayors Lists (pp cix–cx) for BL: Harley MS 2057.

CHOLMONDELEY

Inventory of John Dod

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1565 (John Dod of Cholmondeley); 21 November 1565; English; paper; single sheet; 310mm x 205mm (175mm x 155mm); text 1 side only.

CHRISTLETON

Crown Book

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 21/2; 1600–17; Latin and English; paper; ii + 135 + iv; 306mm x 200mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; pages dirty and dog-eared, some repairs; modern parchment and board binding.

This MS also contains entries for Northwich, Tarvin, Witton, and County of Cheshire.

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Barnshaw (p xci) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/4.

CHURCH LAWTON

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

York, Borthwick Institute, V.1595–6 CB.2; 1595–6; English and Latin; paper; iv + 174 + iv (including

2 flyleaves with text, numbered in pencil 'A' and 'B'); 304mm x 200mm (text area variable); ink foliation, possibly contemporary, 8–139 with modern ink-stamped foliation from f 140, modern pencil foliation 8–174 (no ff 1–7, 87, or 97, and ff 114 and 122 repeated in both sets of numbering); some repairs; some enlarged headings; booklets bound together in modern white vellum binding, brown leather plate on front.

York, Borthwick Institute, V.1595–6 CB.3; 1595–6; English and Latin; paper; ii + 183 + i; 255mm x 175mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation, also some partial older ink foliation; some enlarged headings; some repairs; modern white vellum binding, brown leather plate on front.

CLIFTON

Indictment Roll

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 25/8; 1377–99; Latin; parchment; 59 membranes, attached at top; mb 8: 864mm x 273mm (membranes range from 300–920mm x 270–5mm); modern pencil foliation, incomplete contemporary ink foliation; text both sides, from top; repaired; 2 membranes sewn together to form outside cover, with tag.

CONGLETON

The Congleton borough records are kept at the town hall in Congleton. During a period of temporary deposit at the Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, these documents were assigned identification numbers. The then CRO produced a 'Schedule of Borough records and artifacts in the strongroom in the Town Hall' from which the MS references are here taken.

The series of borough records runs from the mid-sixteenth century to the nineteenth, when the volumes were bound, and beyond. Only the very earliest volumes are relevant to the present collection. The earliest records are in the inquisition book, a nineteenth-century transcript of the original records, but this contains nothing relevant to this volume. Neither the inquisition book nor the order book contains entries for every year in the range they cover. Borough Account Book I is similarly haphazard in the accounts for the earliest years but from about 1590 the accounts appear annually. Inside Borough Account Book I, there is a loose booklet which contains relevant material from 1610–12 and 1616–17. This usually duplicates, but sometimes complements, the material in Account Book I. Borough Account Book II (1638–71) has a few accounts before 1642 but there are no bearwards or players mentioned.

The accounting year at Congleton began at Michaelmas and the accounts are frequently divided into four quarters: Michaelmas–Christmas (29 September–24 December), Christmas–Lady Day (25 December–24 March), Lady Day to Midsummer (25 March–23 June), and Midsummer to Michaelmas (24 June–28 September). In the early to mid-1600s these quarter dates were not always strictly observed. Where the account quarters are not fully expressed by day and month but rather, for example, by the quarter name or number, there is no way of knowing if the borough officials were observing the traditional quarter start and end dates or not. In these cases no date subheadings are supplied for the individual excerpts and endnotes are used to record the quarter divisions as indicated in the MS. In the later years as well, the accounts frequently begin with a reckoning of the current mayor's expenses incurred during the mayoralty of the outgoing mayor. These are usually confined to the period of transition in September and October, the months after the incumbent mayor was elected and before the outgoing mayor's account was audited or rendered.

Borough Order Book

The order book contains charters, court proceedings, orders of assembly, information relating to apprentices, lists of freemen, and memoranda of annual accounts (not detailed) for years within 1554–78 and 1589–91. Starting at f 51v there are detailed accounts from 1594–1605 which appear to be fair copies of those in the Borough Account Book I.

Congleton, Congleton Town Council, Order Books 3/1; 1554–1699; English and Latin; paper; ii + 136 + ii; 395mm x 280mm; modern pencil foliation, earlier erratic ink pagination; variable condition, some repairs; 19th- or 20th-c. binding with Congleton town arms on front.

Borough Account I

Congleton, Congleton Town Council, Accounts 6/1; 1584–1637; English and Latin; paper; ii + 353 + ii; 310mm x 210mm (many smaller octavo pages set into larger sheets for uniformity); modern pencil foliation at top left of folios (followed here) and at top right; some pages repaired, some damaged by damp, but overall good condition; 19th-c. binding, leather covers stamped with Congleton town arms.

Quarter Sessions Petition

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 34/3/50; 15 October 1605; English; paper; single sheet; 338mm x 308mm (text area variable); bottom right corner torn off, some repairs.

Borough Account Booklet

Congleton, Congleton Town Council, Accounts 6/1; 1610–12, 1616–17; English; paper; 31 leaves; 302mm x 200mm; unnumbered; f [1] detached from booklet; no cover. This is a loose booklet within Account Book I.

Great Sessions Recognizance

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/1; 2 March 1618/19; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 150mm x 340mm (144mm x 336mm); dirty. Attached at the top to 120 membranes (individual documents and some sheets of paper) by a parchment tag.

COPPENHALL

Coppenhall was divided into the townships of Church Coppenhall and Monks Coppenhall.

Quarter Sessions Petition

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 43/2/61; 12 July 1614; English; paper; single sheet; 200mm x 250mm (130mm x 180mm); ink blot on text near left margin.

CREWE

Crewe in this document is Crewe near Farndon, in Broxton hundred, also known as Crewe Hall, not the larger Crewe in Nantwich hundred.

Inventory of John Yardley, Gentleman

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1612 (John Yardley of Crewe); 12 May 1612; English and Latin; paper; 4 leaves; 304mm x 195mm (text area variable); unnumbered; written on ff [2–3v] only; f [4] torn and dirty; folded in 4 vertically and horizontally.

DARNHALL

Quarter Sessions Presentments

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 31/2/43; 1602; English; paper; single sheet; 304mm x 205mm (275mm x 195mm).

This MS also contains entries for Frodsham.

DAVENHAM

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/8a; 1589; English and Latin; paper; 141 leaves (many blank); 299mm x 205mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; outer leaves dirty, some loose leaves; cover missing, remains of brown leather binding on spine.

See also under Acton (p lxxxviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/17.

DODLESTON

Quarter Sessions Presentment

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 49/2/47; 15 June 1620; English; paper; single sheet; 100mm x 150mm (75mm x 120mm).

EATON

There are four Eatons in Cheshire. The preamble of the Inventory of Urian Moreton, Gentleman, makes it clear that the Eaton referred to is the one in Astbury parish. The mention of Utkinton in the Consistory Court Depositions makes it clear that the Eaton referred to is the one in Tarporley parish (Eddisbury hundred).[22] The item is part of a longer case, and the main centre of events was Puddington, which is in Wirral, hence the form of the CCALS reference.

Inventory of Urian Moreton, Gentleman

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1594 (Urian Moreton of Yeaton, gentleman); 16 April 1594; English; parchment; single membrane; 720mm x 263mm (628mm x 225mm).

Consistory Court Depositions

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1612/53 Puddington; 1612; Latin and English; paper; 4 leaves; 310mm x 205mm (280mm x 160mm); unnumbered; outer panels dirty but condition good.

ECCLESTON

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/32; 1634; English and Latin; paper; 95 leaves; 310mm x 196mm (292mm x 192mm); modern pencil foliation; poor condition, outer leaves very torn and dirty; booklets sewn together, no binding.

EGERTON

Great Sessions Order and Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/1; 1617; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 178mm at widest (298mm x 171mm at widest); unnumbered. Attached by a parchment thong to other documents in a roll.

This MS also contains entries for Harthill and Huxley.

ELTON

There are two Eltons, one in Thornton parish (Eddisbury hundred, Chester deanery) and one in Warmingham parish (Northwich hundred, Middlewich deanery). There is no indication which Elton is meant.[23]

Great Sessions Recognizance

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/4; 9 September 1616; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 133mm x 214mm (90mm x 200mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/113/4 series excerpted within this collection.

FARNDON

Farndon Race Records

An annual race was established at Farndon in 1631, to be run on the Monday after St Chad's Day (2 March).[24] In 1651 a dispute arose concerning Lord Cholmondeley's responsibility for providing a plate to be run for at Farndon races. The matter was enquired into and documentary evidence was collected. Two of the documents in this section are part of this collection and have the same shelfmark (DCH/J 40). Although 1651 is outside the date range of this study, the interrogatories relate to events in 1631.

List of Contributors to Plate for Farndon Races

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/J 40; 1630; English; paper; single sheet; 190mm x 150mm (150mm x 130mm); beginning to fray at edges but overall good condition.

Articles Agreed Concerning Farndon Races

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/X 15/13; 28 January 1631/2; English; parchment; single membrane; 575mm x 469mm (500mm x 410mm); enlarged initial words in paragraphs; whole very faded; folded in 4 horizontally, 2 vertically. Attached to a list of contributors for a further plate, 1656.

Interrogatories Concerning Farndon Races

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/J 40; 3 February 1650/1; English; paper; 6 leaves; 293mm x 191mm (260mm x 145mm); unnumbered; catchwords in bottom right corner; good condition, folded in 4 horizontally, outer panel dirty.

Letter of Mr Werden to Sir Thomas Aston

Sir Thomas Aston of Aston by Sutton (*c* 1600–45) was the son and heir of John Aston of Aston (d. 1615). Thomas was created baronet in July 1628 and was sheriff of Cheshire in 1634–5. He supported the king in the Civil War. Mr Werden was probably Robert Werden of Burton, an active royalist and a colonel of horse under Charles I.[25]

London, British Library, Additional MS 36914; 13 March 1640/1; English; paper; bifolium; 292mm x 193mm (text area variable); unnumbered; text ff [1]–[1v] only, some writing down sides; folded in 3 vertically and horizontally; remains of small red wax seal. Bound together as ff 197–8 with other letters in modern green leather binding in a volume.

FRODSHAM

Quarter Sessions Presentments

See under Darnhall (p cxlv) for CCALS: QJF 31/2/43.

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/110/1; 1609; English; paper; single sheet; 305mm x 205mm (290mm x 169mm). Attached by a parchment string to other documents in a roll.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/1; 28 April 1617; English; paper; single sheet; 70mm x 201mm; text 1 side only (32mm x 172mm). Attached by a parchment thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/1 series excerpted within this collection.

GAWSWORTH

Quarter Sessions Presentment

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 47/2/23; 14 July 1618; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 94mm x 275mm (58mm x 265mm).

GREAT BUDWORTH

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/15; September–November 1608; English and Latin; paper; 172 + i; 297mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; some loose leaves and documents, outer leaves torn and dirty, loose modern table of contents; booklets sewn together, no surviving binding.

This MS also contains entries for Middlewich, Prestbury, Weaverham, and Witton.

GREAT CALDY

Letter of William Glegg to Peter Mainwaring

William Glegg of Caldy Grange (*c* 1587–1644) is described in a memorial inscription in church at West Kirby as 'of Gray's Inn' and the son of William Glegg 'of Great Caldy or Grange, esq.' His father, William Glegg the elder (*c* 1559–1636), was still alive at the time this letter was written. Peter Mainwaring, a lawyer, was one of the younger sons of Henry Mainwaring of Kermincham.[26]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 45/1/104; 22 April 1616; English; paper; bifolium, now mounted in separate pieces, text of letter on ff [1] and [2], f [1v] blank; 293mm x 207mm (140mm x 170mm); unnumbered; remains of a small red seal (device indecipherable).

HALE

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 66/4/16; 4 January 1637/8; English; paper; bifolium; 275mm x 177mm; unnumbered; sheet folded in 4 horizontally, edges uneven.

Quarter Sessions Warrants

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 66/4/15; 9 January 1637/8; English; paper; single sheet; 219mm x 200mm (text area variable).

HARTHILL

Great Sessions Order and Presentments

See under Egerton (p cxlvi) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/1.

HATTON

Quarter Sessions Recognizances

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 46/2/62; 14 May 1617; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 105mm x 293mm (176mm x 275mm).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 69/3/50; 22 July 1640; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 70mm x 240mm (text 30mm x 231mm on recto, 60mm x 240mm on verso).

HESWALL

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Chester (p cxix) for CCALS: EDV 1/29.

HUXLEY

Great Sessions Order and Presentments

See under Egerton (p cxlvi) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/1.

Letter of Sir Richard Wilbraham to Sir Thomas Chamberlain

Sir Richard Wilbraham (*c* 1578–1643) was the son and heir of Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey (d. 1610). He was created baronet in 1621. Sir Thomas Chamberlain was chief justice of Chester in 1616–21 and 1625–6.[27]

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/2; 24 September 1617; English; paper; bifolium; 309mm x 200mm (210mm x 150mm); unnumbered; remains of seal covered with paper. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

INCE

Great Sessions Recognizances

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/4; 1 August 1616; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 119mm x 251mm (text 1 side only, 70mm x 220mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/113/4 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/4; 1 August 1616; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 129mm x 259mm (text 1 side only, 82mm x 226mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance C to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/113/4 series excerpted within this collection.

Great Sessions Indictments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 13 April 1618; Latin and English; parchment; 2 membranes; 750mm x 368mm (text area variable); unnumbered; text both sides, top becomes bottom; membranes attached at top. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

This MS also contains entries for Knutsford.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Alderley (p lxxxviii) for BI: V.1633 CB.2B.

KELSALL

Quarter Sessions Examinations

See under Nether Peover (p clxiv) for CCALS: QJF 60/3/109.

KNUTSFORD

Some of the documents specifically refer to Nether Knutsford, some simply to Knutsford. The two townships are adjacent in Knutsford chapelry.

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 38/3/5; 16–18 September 1609; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 292mm (275mm x 160mm); unnumbered.

Quarter Sessions Presentment

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 41/3/32; 6 October 1612; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 198mm x 260mm (147mm x 218mm).

Great Sessions Indictments

See under Ince (p cl) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/3.

Crown Book

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 21/4; 1637–9; Latin and English; paper; ii + 451 + ii; 290mm x 190mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation (some blank pages); some enlarged headings; overall good condition; modern parchment and board binding, call letters on spine.

Quarter Sessions Complaint

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 67/1/28; 3 April 1638; English; paper; bifolium; 195mm x 151mm (183mm x 135mm); unnumbered.

Consistory Court Articles and Interrogatories

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1639/120 Knutsford; June 1639; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 295mm x 210mm (295mm x 200mm); unnumbered; enlarged and flourished initial 'I' in 'Imprimis' of paragraph 1; top torn and ragged, folded in 4 vertically, panels 3 and 4 very dirty.

Bearbaiting in Knutsford Chapel (AC)

Henry Green was minister of the Unitarian Chapel in Knutsford from 1827 to 1872. His notebooks on the history of Knutsford are now kept at the CCALS. The document to which Green alludes has not been found.

Henry Green, *Knutsford: Its Traditions and History with Reminiscences, Anecdotes, and Notices of the Neighbourhood* (London, 1859; rpt, Manchester, 1969).

LACHE

Because other documents in the same bundle deal with townships in Broxton hundred, 'letch greene' has been identified with the hamlet of Lache in the township of Marlston cum Lache, rather than Lach Dennis in Northwich hundred.

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 1618; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 202mm (287mm x 198mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

This MS also contains entries for Lostock Gralam and Northwich.

LARKTON

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Northwich (p clxv) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/113/2.

LITTLE BUDWORTH

Bill of Complaint and Other Documents in Egerton v. Starkie et al

John Egerton (1551–1614) was the son and heir of John Egerton of Egerton and Oulton. He was knighted by Elizabeth in 1599 and also seems to have had a claim to the chief forestership of Delamere. Sir John added extensively to the family estates. His success in amassing land is attributed by Ormerod to his Court connections. The principal family seat was at Egerton. His opponents were John Starkie of Oulton, seated at Darley Hall, and his son, Hugh Starkie of Knight's Grange. The lordship of Oulton came into the Starkie family in the reign of Henry VI.[28]

Bill of Complaint in Egerton v. Starkie et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 7/2/24; 16 November 1595; English; parchment; single membrane; 662mm x 765mm (560mm x 718mm); names of deponents written in display script. Now loose but at one time sewn to related document or documents.

Interrogatories for Defendants in Egerton v. Starkie et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 5/E11/3; undated; English; parchment;

3 membranes, attached end to end with parchment; 1545mm x 350mm (text area variable); unnumbered; written on both sides, from top. Attached at top left corner to other documents in the case in position 9 in the roll.

Defendants' Depositions in Egerton v. Starkie et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 5/E11/3; 7 April 1596; English; parchment; 3 membranes; 621–707mm x 272–93mm (text area variable); unnumbered; written on both sides, top becomes bottom; some enlarged headings. Attached in reverse order at top left corner to other documents in the case in positions 6–8 in roll.

Witnesses' Examinations in Egerton v. Starkie et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 7/2/24; 19 January 1596/7; English; parchment; 3 membranes, attached at top left corner; 640mm x 291mm (634mm x 286mm); unnumbered; written on both sides, top becomes bottom; names of deponents and opening word of each response in display script. Attached to other documents in same case.

High Constable's Presentments for Eddisbury Hundred

See under Bunbury (p xciv) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4.

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/2; 20 September 1619; English; paper; single sheet; 290mm x 204mm (232mm x 195mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/115/2 series excerpted within this collection.

This MS also contains entries for Mouldsworth, Over, and Utkinton.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/116/2; 3 September 1621; English; paper; single sheet; 260mm x 194mm (156mm x 189mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/116/2 series excerpted within this collection.

See also under Alpraham (p lxxxix) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/2 (Great Sessions Presentments B).

LOSTOCK GRALAM

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/3; 28 April 1620; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 160mm x 100mm (154mm x 94mm); very dirty. Attached at the top to 168 membranes and sheets of paper, with a parchment tag, and boxed. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/115/3 series excerpted within this collection.

See under Lache (p clii) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4.

LYMM

Quarter Sessions Recognizance

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 12/3/36; 24 August 1582; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 168mm x 270mm (164mm x 268mm).

MACCLESFIELD

Macclesfield lies at the end of the Cat and Fiddle Pass through the Pennines to Derbyshire and one might well expect that it would have been on a route for travelling players and entertainers and have developed an active ceremonial life. Unfortunately the evidence that would be needed to establish this is lost. According to C.S. Davies, *History of Macclesfield*, the borough documents (including portmote records) were moved to the Public Record Office in the nineteenth century after the relevant courts had ceased to be held in Macclesfield. The Birkenhead Public Library also holds some Macclesfield documents. The town books, however, which were available for transcription by Peter Browne, a Macclesfield solicitor, in 1830, were reported to J.P. Earwaker as lost when he wrote his history of Macclesfield hundred in 1877–80.[29] Earwaker's collection includes some pages evidently removed from the town's records which, in their brief space, give some idea of the abundance of companies travelling through the town and leave us to regret what has been lost.

Assault by Margaret la Symphaner

The document comprises Macclesfield Portmote Court Rolls, 1383–1563.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 63/2/339; 1393; Latin; parchment; 2 rolls of 2 membranes, tied at top, and 15 membranes, tied at top left with original leather tie; 240mm x 385–836mm; unnumbered; roll 1 in poor condition, roll 2 generally good but with extensive damage and loss on the final 2 membranes and both edges.

Sir Edward Fitton's Accounts

Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth (1548/9–1606) was the son of Sir Edward Fitton, lord president of Connaught and Thomond, and treasurer of Ireland. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and Gray's Inn, and followed his father into a career in administration, largely in Ireland. He was JP for Cheshire from 1583 until his death, and MP for Wigan in 1572 and Boroughbridge in 1589. After being involved with the Munster plantation scheme he became disillusioned with it and returned to live at Gawsworth permanently from 1588 (*ODNB*). The document was found in the Earwaker collection (made during the preparation of his work on Macclesfield), and initial items in the document refer to the town court and the fair. The accounts apparently relate to Fitton's period as mayor of Macclesfield and are therefore included here rather than in the Households section. See also Fitton of Gawsworth below (pp clxxx–clxxxi).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 63/2/341/18; 2 October 1601; English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 204mm; tear at bottom of sheet.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Astbury (p lxxxix) for CCALS: EDV 1/12b.

MALPAS

The southwest corner of Broxton hundred is almost entirely occupied by Malpas parish, which contains twenty-five townships, including Is-coed in the county of Flint.[30] Malpas can refer either to the township of that name or to the parish as a whole but usually the township is meant.

Judicial Records

Great Sessions Inquest

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 25/11; 1413–22; Latin; parchment; 31 membranes (most attached at top, some smaller membranes attached to larger ones); smallest 720–850mm x 270mm (text area variable); modern pencil numbering; text written on both sides, from top; mended; 2 membranes sewn together to form outer cover, tag.

This MS also contains entries for Middlewich.

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/96/1; 1565–6; English; paper; bifolium (small piece of paper pinned to f [1v]); 302mm x 210mm (text area variable); unnumbered; some damage, bottom right side of page frayed, some words lost. Attached by a parchment tag to sixty-five other documents. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/96/1 series excerpted within this collection.

This MS also contains entries for Nantwich.

See also under Northwich (p clxv) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/113/2.

Crown Book

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 21/3; 1617–31; Latin and English;

paper; ii + 374 + ii; 305mm x 185mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; some enlarged headings; some repairs; parchment and board binding.

This book also contains entries for Nantwich, Over, Withington, and County of Cheshire.

Ecclesiastical Records

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/12a; 1598; Latin and English; paper; i + 148; 284mm x 190mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; outer leaves and edges stained and dirty; 16th–17th c. parchment binding, tags used for binding.

This MS also contains entries for Stockport.

Consistory Court Penance Book

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1625/67; 26 April 1625; English and Latin; paper; 4 leaves; 308mm x 203mm (edges ragged); unnumbered; outer panel (left half of 1) very dirty, water damage, stitched along left edge and folded in 2 vertically.

Miscellaneous Records

Free Grammar School Foundation Deed

Malpas Free Grammar School was first founded in 1527/8 by Sir Randulph Brereton. A number of other endowments were made by other benefactors close to the same time, so that Ormerod considered William Davidson, alderman and merchant of Chester, Owen Brereton, and David Dodde of Edge to be 'virtually joint-founders,' an impression borne out by the dates of the endowments. On the Suppression of Chantries in 1545–6, the bulk of the endowment lands were resumed by Sir Roger Brereton, and the school ceased to exist, although Davidson's endowment remained. Ormerod notes that the school was refounded by Hugh, first earl of Cholmondeley. He does not give a date for the refounding, but Hugh was created earl of Cholmondeley in 1706 and died in January 1723/4.[31]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/C 446; 20 March 1527/8; English; parchment; single membrane; 746mm (indented at top) x 520mm (645mm x 465mm); enlarged initial 'T,' with flourishes at beginning, first words of text enlarged and marker words throughout, large red seal with demi-griffin device (Cholmondeley crest).

Mr Burghall's Providence Improved (AC)

See under Bunbury (pp xciv–xcv) for BL: Additional MS 5851.

MARTHALL

The township of Marthall included the hamlet of Little Warford. Ormerod notes that although Warford was mentioned in Domesday Book, Marthall was not.[32]

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Astle (p lxxxix) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/2.

MIDDLEWICH

Quarter Sessions Interrogatories

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSF 51/72; 1602; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 200/205mm (290mm x 150mm); unnumbered; written on ff [1–1v] only; repaired.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Great Budworth (p cxlviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/15.

Quarter Sessions Petitions

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 45/3/88; 15 and 16 October 1616; English; paper; single sheet; 163mm x 278mm (84mm x 224mm).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 50/2/146; 11 July 1621; English; paper; single sheet; 297mm x 208mm (280mm x 176mm).

Great Sessions Petition

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/3; 1616; English; paper; bifolium, written on outer sheet only; 230mm x 170mm (220mm x 150mm); unnumbered. Attached by a parchment thong to numerous other documents and numbered 6 of a set of petitions, beginning with 38 and working backwards.

Great Sessions Recognizances

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 10 October 1617; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 75mm x 296mm (59mm x 291mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/3 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 10 October 1617; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 67mm x 275mm (58mm x 260mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/3 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 20 February 1617/18; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 97mm x 354mm (60mm x 325mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance F to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/3 series excerpted within this collection.

Great Sessions Inquest

See under Malpas (p clv) for TNA: PRO CHES 25/11.

Quarter Sessions Presentment

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 49/2/52; 18 July 1620; English; paper; single sheet; 82mm x 217mm (40mm x 195mm).

MINSHULL VERNON

Quarter Sessions Recognizance

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJB 1/3; 1593–1608/9; English and Latin; paper; i + 281 + i; 288mm x 192mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; repaired; parchment and board binding (boards and flyleaves modern).

Will of Christopher Minshull of Ashington, Sussex

Christopher Minshull was a younger son of Thomas Minshull of Eardswick, a hamlet in Minshull Vernon. He received his BA on 19 January 1577/8, his MA on 4 June 1580, and was made rector of Ashington-with-Buncton, Sussex, in 1582. He subsequently became canon of Sutton, diocese of Chichester, in 1588 and rector of Earnley, Sussex, in 1590. He died 19 December 1614.[33]

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, PROB 11/125; 8 August 1614 (probate 11 January 1614/15); English and Latin; parchment; i + 532 + i; 457mm x 360mm (309mm x 266mm); modern ink stamped foliation; opening words and phrases in display script; fragile condition; modern tan cloth over board binding.

MOBBERLEY

Consistory Court Book

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 1/28; 1593–6; Latin and English;

paper; 483 + iii; 425mm x 287mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; booklets of 10 leaves bound together, some now loose, occasional loose pieces of paper inserted, usually smaller sheets, MS frayed at edges and very dirty on outer folios and cover; parchment binding, worn and dirty, coming apart in places, 3 leather straps across back, middle strap evidently once had a clasp, '1593 | to | 1596' written in contemporary ink on front cover and on modern sticker on spine.

Consistory Court Articles of Charge

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1597/101; 21 April 1597; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 298mm x 200mm (text area variable).

MOULDSWORTH

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Little Budworth (p cliii) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/2.

NANTWICH

A number of Cheshire gentry families had branches at Nantwich and surviving inventories record a variety of musical instruments in their possession. The parish registers, which also survive, indicate that there were a number of resident musicians in the town. It is therefore a great pity that no civic accounts survive, as these would undoubtedly have recorded payments to musicians and probably visiting entertainers as well.

Ecclesiastical Records

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/10; 1592; English and Latin; paper; 179 leaves (loose documents pinned to some leaves); 306mm x 206mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; frayed edges, outer leaves dirty, some torn; booklets bound together in modern cardboard with parchment strings.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/14; 1605; English and Latin; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 230mm (160mm x 160mm); top and right edge damaged resulting in loss of text. Loose sheet currently inside the front cover of CCALS: EDV 1/14.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/24; 1622–4; English and Latin; paper; iv + 185; 295mm x 188mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; some dirty outer leaves; booklets bound together, binding missing except for pieces on spine.

See also under Barrow (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/26, Barthomley (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/14 (f 59), and Bowdon (p xciii) for CCALS: EDV 1/22.

Judicial Records

Exchequer Petition

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 16/3; 6 December 1578; English; paper; 3 leaves; 305mm x 205mm (280mm x 170mm); unnumbered; outer panel dirty and torn at edge. Folded in four and attached to other documents.

Great Sessions Indictments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/112/2; 27 September 1613; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 807mm (bottom uneven) x 327mm (785mm x 319mm); written on both sides, top becomes bottom. Attached by a parchment thong to other documents in a roll.

Quarter Sessions Presentments

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 60/4/9; 24 January 1631/2; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 73mm x 350mm (63mm x 310mm); right edge torn, faded, several words lost.

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Malpas (p clv) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/96/1.

Crown Book

See under Malpas (pp clv–clvi) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/3.

Family Records

Wilbraham Diary

Ormerod, in discussing the Wilbraham family, notes the existence of 'a curious series of journals commenced by Richard Wilbraham of Nantwich, who died in 1612, and continued regularly to the time of his great great grandson, who died in 1732.' Richard Wilbraham was born 13 August 1528, and Ormerod claims that he began the diary in 1542.[34] The Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies assigns a start date of 1513, which suggests that it was begun by an even earlier Wilbraham.

Hertfordshire, privately held MS; 1513–1962; English; paper; 53 leaves; 200mm x 148mm (text area variable); modern foliation. Photocopy available at CCALS: DDX 210/1.

Inventory of Jasper Rutter, Gentleman

Jasper Rutter was the son of John Rutter, who is mentioned in the Nantwich register in 1539.

Jasper Rutter's grandfather, John Rutter of Kingsley, moved to Nantwich about the beginning of Henry VIII's reign. His will, dated 21 September 1601, was proved 13 April 1605.[35]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1605 (Jasper Rutter of Nantwich); 26 February 1604/5; English; paper; 2 sheets sewn together with string to form long single sheet; 810mm x 305mm (550mm x 300mm); folded several times, dirty at edges and fraying at some of the folds.

Inventory of Thomas Bullyn, Yeoman

Thomas Bullyn's will is dated 6 October 1606 and was proved 30 October 1606.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1606 (Inventory of Thomas Bullyn of Wichemalbanke, Nantwich); 15 October 1606; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 203mm (295mm x 145–57mm); unnumbered.

Will of Henry Wright, Innholder

Henry Wright was probably the third son of Thomas Wright of Nantwich and was mentioned in the entail of his father's estate in 1582–3.[36] The scribe of the will has made an error in the regnal year, attributing the date to the fifth year of James I's reign (9 August 1607) and the fortieth of his Scottish (9 August 1608). As the probate date is 7 January 1607/8, the 1607 date is clearly the correct one for the will.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1607 (Henry Wright of Wych Malbank); 9 August 1607; English; parchment; single membrane; 218mm x 440mm narrowing to 272mm (written to edges); folded several times; small red wax seal with device of bell and motto (not all remaining).

Inventory of Henry Wright, Innholder

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1607 (Henry Wright of Wich Malbank); 15 October 1607; English; parchment; 3 membranes, stitched together at ends; 1550mm x 206mm (1515mm x 180mm); written on 1 side only; folded several times.

Inventory of Matthew Hawkes

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1618 (Matthew Hawkes of Nantwich); 6 May 1618; English; paper; bifolium; 306mm x 195mm (text area variable); unnumbered; 3 vertical fold lines, with loss of text through tearing at the bottom of each fold.

Inventory of Richard Heyes, Gentleman

Richard Heyes' will was proved on 5 June 1622.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1622 (Richard Heyes of Wich Malbank); 4 June 1622; English; parchment; single membrane; 480mm x 171mm (470mm x 155mm).

Inventory of Edmond Myles, Innkeeper

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1625 (Edmund Myles of Wych Malbank); 13 August 1625; English; parchment; single membrane; 650mm x 179mm (recto 647mm x 175mm, verso 205mm x 160mm); text continued on back, top becomes bottom.

Inventory of Elizabeth Myles, Widow

Elizabeth Myles was evidently the widow of Edmond Myles, innkeeper (see above). Her will was dated 29 May 1627 and proved on 22 September 1627.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1627 (Elizabeth Myles of Nantwich); 20 September 1627; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 447mm x 226mm (text area variable); writing continued on second side (bottom becomes top), 2 columns on side 1 (first column wider than second); good condition, ink on outer panel rubbed and faded, folded in various ways.

Inventory of Edward Minshull, Esquire

Edward Minshull of Nantwich was the son of Geoffrey Minshull of Nantwich. He was over forty in 1604–5 when he succeeded his father and was therefore born before 1564. He purchased the manor of Stoke in 1611–12, and died 17 January 1626/7.[37] Probate was granted on 4 September 1628.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1627/8 (Edward Minshull of Nantwich); 11 February 1627/8; English; parchment; single membrane; 521mm x 210mm (text area variable); text continued on second side (top to bottom); folded 3 times horizontally, 4 vertically.

Inventory of Richard Arcall, Grocer

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1633 (Richard Arcall of Nantwich); 21 November 1633; English; paper; bifolium; 295mm x 204mm (text area variable); unnumbered; folded.

Inventory of William Worrall, Musician

William Worrall died intestate but his wife was granted letters of administration in his estate on 29 November 1637.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WI 1637 (William Worrall of Nantwich); 13 June 1637; English; paper; bifolium; 392mm x 154mm (292mm x 150mm); unnumbered; text f [1] only.

Inventory of Thomas Bickerton, Gentleman

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1638 (Thomas Bickerton of Nantwich); 31 January 1638/9; English; paper; bifolium; 388mm x 155mm (370mm x 135mm); unnumbered; folded in 4 vertically, back page torn along horizontal fold.

Inventory of Edmond Myles, Innholder

Edmond Myles was evidently the son of Edmond Myles, innkeeper (see above). His will was proved on 21 May 1640.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1640 (Edmund Myles of Nantwich); 13 May 1640; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 702mm (approximate) x 210mm; folded once horizontally, formerly folded 3 times vertically.

NESTON

Neston parish included Great Neston, Ledsham, Leighton, Little Neston cum Hargrave, Ness, Raby, Thornton Hough, and Willaston.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Acton (p lxxxviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/17.

Great Sessions Information

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/2; 15 September 1617; English; paper; single sheet; 160mm x 207mm (95mm x 170mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

NETHER PEOVER

Nether Peover (Lower Peover), was a single township divided between two hundreds. It contained two towns: Great Peover in Northwich hundred and Little Peover in Bucklow hundred.

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

York, Borthwick Institute, V.1578–9 CB.3; 1578–9; English and Latin; paper; ii + 115; 274mm x 179mm (262mm x 140mm); modern pencil foliation; some enlarged headings; contemporary parchment binding.

This MS also contains entries for Weaverham.

Quarter Sessions Orders

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 60/3/102; 6 August 1631; English;

paper; single sheet; 190mm x 195mm (105mm x 155mm); enlarged initial 'T' in 'To'; formerly folded in 3 horizontally, 2 vertically.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 60/3/103; 6 August 1631; English; paper; single sheet; 178mm x 195mm (118mm x 175mm); slightly torn top right corner.

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 60/3/109; 8 August 1631; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 206mm (text area variable); unnumbered; edges uneven.

This MS also contains entries for Kelsall.

NEWBOLD ASTBURY

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 34/3/38; 1–11 October 1605; English; paper; bifolium; 302mm x 202mm (average 293mm x 165mm); unnumbered; irregular tear (60mm x 20mm at its widest) on right side of both sheets resulting in loss of text, some repairs.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 34/3/22; 12 October 1605; English; paper; single sheet; 295mm x 203mm.

NORLEY

Quarter Sessions Examination

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZQSE 8/29; 16 August 1609; English; paper; 2 leaves; 277mm x 175mm (193mm x 128mm); unnumbered.

NORTHWICH

Orders against the Spread of Plague

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 63/2/692/230; 10 September 1603; English; paper; bifolium; 308mm x 200mm (296mm x 185mm); unnumbered.

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/111/4; 1612; English; paper; single sheet; 310mm x 207mm (153mm x 138mm). Attached by a parchment thong to other documents in a roll.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/2; 1 May 1615; English; paper; bifolium; 313mm x 196mm (265mm x 175mm); unnumbered; text f [1] only. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

This MS also contains entries for Larkton, Malpas, and Tattenhall.

See also under Lache (p clii) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4.

Crown Book

See under Christleton (p cxlii) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/2.

Quarter Sessions Arrest Warrant

See under Witton (p clxxvii) for CCALS: QJF 64/1/32.

Quarter Sessions Information

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 65/3/32; 18 October 1636; English; paper; single sheet; 325mm x 204mm (318mm x 200mm).

OVER

Great Sessions Order

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/2; 1 April 1619; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 262mm x 198mm (221mm x 192mm); unnumbered; seal disintegrated, some wax fragments remain. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Little Budworth (p cliii) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/2.

Crown Book

See under Malpas (pp clv–clvi) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/3.

PECKFORTON

Mr Burghall's Providence Improved (AC)

See under Bunbury (pp xciv–xcv) for BL: Additional MS 5851.

POYNTON

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Acton (p lxxxviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/17.

PRESTBURY

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Great Budworth (p cxlviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/15.

St Peter's Churchwardens' Accounts

Prestbury, St Peter's Church; 1572–1638; English; paper; 103 leaves; 315mm x 180mm (text area variable); unnumbered; fragile condition, leaves crumbling at edges, especially at start; original vellum cover, front cover only a fragment. There is a mass of debris inside the back cover which was loose and uncountable along with other loose items.

PUDDINGTON

Quarter Sessions Examination

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 7/2/16; 14 May 1577; English; paper; single sheet; 212mm x 180mm (198mm x 156mm). Mounted and bound with other documents in grey card covers, formerly fastened together at the top left corner by a thong or cord and rolled up.

ROSTHERNE

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Barthomley (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/14.

ROWTON

Great Sessions Presentment

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/2; 1617; English; paper; single sheet; 135mm x 200mm (70mm x 160mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

RUNCORN

Great Sessions Presentment

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/1; 1617; English; paper; single sheet; 106mm x 198mm (55mm x 150mm); text 1 side only. Attached by a parchment thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentment B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/1 series excerpted within this collection.

SANDBACH

Great Sessions Examinations

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/100/3; 7 April 1586; English; paper; bifolium; 298mm x 206mm (287mm x 196mm); unnumbered. Attached by braid to seven other documents and by a parchment tag to other documents in the roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Examination A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/100/3 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/100/3; 13 April 1586; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 207mm (273mm x 198mm); unnumbered. Attached by braid to seven other documents and by a parchment tag to other documents in the roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Examination B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/100/3 series excerpted within this collection.

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 67/2/171; 7 May 1638; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 314mm x 197mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

SHOTWICK

Great Sessions Examinations

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/98/3; 3 September 1579; Latin and English; paper; bifolium; 307mm x 205mm (242mm x 170mm); unnumbered; good condition. Attached at the top to other documents in a roll with a parchment tag.

Letter of Thomas Mallory et al to the Archbishop of Canterbury

Thomas Mallory, dean of Chester (1607–44), was the younger son of William Mallory of Stewdley, Yorkshire West Riding. He was, in addition to being dean of Chester, parson of both Davenham and Mobberley. His wife was the daughter of Richard Vaughan, bishop of Chester. He died 3 April 1644.[38]

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/3; 27 January 1615/16; English; paper; bifolium; 315mm x 213mm (290mm x 155mm); unnumbered; remains of red wax seal showing coat of arms with 4 quarterings (top left: bend with 3 objects, possibly sheaves of wheat; bottom right: 3 crosses above a horn; other quarters difficult to make out). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

SIDDINGTON

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Astbury (p lxxxix) for CCALS: EDV 1/12b.

Quarter Sessions Recognizance

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 53/2/60; 8 May 1624; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 70mm x 195mm (45mm x 180mm).

Quarter Sessions Information

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 53/2/153; 12 May 1624; English; paper; bifolium; 294mm x 200mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

Quarter Sessions Petition

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 53/2/152; 13 July 1624; English; paper; single sheet; 381mm x 307mm (365mm x 280mm); folded in 3 horizontally, then vertically.

Consistory Court Articles of Charge

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1624/7; 3 February 1624/5; Latin and English; paper; 4 sheets; 316mm x 203mm; unnumbered; folded in 4 vertically, held together by a parchment string.

STOCKPORT

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Malpas (p clvi) for CCALS: EDV 1/12a.

Inventory of Robert Duckenfield of Dukinfield

Robert Duckenfield succeeded his father, also named Robert, in 1621 at the age of 24, and died in 1630.[39]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1630 (Robert Dukinfield of Dukinfield); September 1630; English; parchment; single membrane; 302mm x 690mm; written in 2 columns; folded in 3 horizontally.

Inventory of Ralph Arderne of Crokeley Bredbury

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1633 (Ralph Arderne of Crokeley Bredbury); 30 January 1633/4; English; parchment; 3 membranes, attached by a strip of parchment stuck across the top and secured by string; mbs [1–2]: 165mm x 525mm, mb [3]: 140–50mm x 265mm (mb [3] blank); unnumbered.

Warrant from Richard Lewknor to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Steward (AC)

Sir Richard Lewknor was chief justice of Chester from 1600 to 1616.[40] In the late eighteenth century the Bodleian Library acquired several small collections of county history, including, in 1875, that of the Reverend John Watson, rector of Stockport. These collections were formed into the series MSS Topography and classified by county and size of volume.

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Cheshire b. 1; 18th c.; English and Latin; paper; vi + 582; 420mm x 280mm; ink pagination 1–378 (337 unnumbered in that sequence and numbered 377b in pencil), after 378, numbered in 10s to 568, then continuously to 582, entries end on p 246 but a few pedigrees appear on pp 569–77 (documents pasted on certain pages); pre-ruled to 378, various illustrations, coats of arms, and crests; good condition; tooled leather binding on board.

STRETTON

There are two Strettons in Cheshire, one in Great Budworth parish, Bucklow hundred, Frodsham deanery, and one in Tilston parish, Broxton hundred, Malpas deanery. The mention of Higher Whitley ('Overwhitley') in the second recognizance indicates that the Stretton in Great Budworth parish is the one intended.

Great Sessions Recognizances

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 26 October 1617; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 78mm x 276mm (62mm x 259mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance C to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/3 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 15 November 1617; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 56mm x 386mm (46mm x 360mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance D to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/3 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 18 November 1617; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 65mm x 372mm (44mm x 350mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Recognizance E to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/3 series excerpted within this collection.

SUTTON

There is no indication in the document which of the three Suttons in Cheshire is meant: Sutton (Middlewich parish, Northwich hundred, Middlewich deanery), Sutton alias Sutton Downes (Prestbury parish (Macclesfield chapelry), Macclesfield hundred and deanery), or Sutton iuxta Frodsham (Runcorn parish (Aston chapelry), Bucklow hundred, Frodsham deanery).

Quarter Sessions Examination

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 11/4/16; 24 January 1581/2; English and Latin; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 206mm.

Quarter Sessions Petition

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 65/3/42; 18 October 1636; English; paper; single sheet; 214mm x 270mm (text area variable); folded in 3 vertically.

SWETTENHAM

Quarter Sessions Indictments

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 60/2/17; *c* 5 June 1631; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 82mm x 302mm (46mm x 266mm).

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJB 2/5; 1618–40; English and Latin; paper; ii + 269 + i; 204mm x 153mm; modern pencil foliation; repaired and rebound, modern board and leather binding, dates on spine.

TARPORLEY

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/110/2; 1609; English and Latin; paper; single sheet; 159mm x 207mm (125mm x 175mm); 2 holes. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/110/2 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/4; 17 September 1616; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 197mm x 157mm (160mm x 135mm); text 1 side only. Pinned at the top left corner to other documents and attached by a thong. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments D to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/113/4 series excerpted within this collection.

See also under Boughton (p xcii) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/109/3.

TARVIN

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 32/1/80; 2 May 1603; English and Latin; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 208mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

Great Sessions Presentment

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/109/3; 4 July 1608; Latin and English; parchment; single membrane; 280mm x 80mm (240mm x 63mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments A to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/109/3 series excerpted within this collection.

Crown Book

See under Christleton (p cxlii) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/2.

Hinde, A Faithfull Remonstrance

William Hinde was born *c* 1568–9 at Kendal, Westmorland. He became 'a poor serving child' at Queen's College, Oxford, when he was seventeen (*c* 1585) and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts on 2 July 1591 and Master on 2 July 1594. He was a perpetual Fellow of Queen's College and a preacher at Bunbury from 1602–29. He was one of the leading Puritan clergymen in Cheshire. He died 21 June 1629.

William Hinde, A Faithfull Remonstrance | *OF* | The Holy *Life* and Happy *Death*, | *OF* | Iohn Bruen of *Bruen-Stapleford*, in the | County of *Chester*, Esquire. | (Brother to that Mirrour of Piety; Mistris *Katherin* | Brettergh.) | Exhibiting variety of many Memorable and Exem- | plary passages of his *Life*, and at his *Death*, usefull | for all sorts and Sexes, but principally intended, as | a Path and President of Piety and Charity | for the Inhabitants of the Famous County | Palatine of Chester, | [rule] | By the late reverend divine William Hinde; | sometimes fellow of *Queenes Colledge* in *Oxon*, and | *Preacher* of Gods Word at *Bunb.* in *Cheshire* | Published since his Death. | *The Memory of the Iust shall be blessed, but the name of the* | *Wicked shall rot*; | [device] | *LONDON.* | Printed by *R.B. for Philemon Stephens*, and *Christopher* | *Meredith* and are to be sold at their Shop at the *Golden* | *Lyon* in Saint P*auls* Churchyard. 1641. Wing: H2063.

This book also contains entries for Wimbolds Trafford, Bruen of Bruen Stapleford, and Wilbraham of Woodhey.

TATTENHALL

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/110/2; 1609; English; paper; single sheet; 308mm x 200mm (150mm x 160mm); top of page torn. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. TNA: PRO CHES 24/110 is in four separate rolls, kept in two boxes, labelled 'part 1' and 'part 2.' The box labelled CHES 24/110/part 1 holds CHES 24/110/2 and CHES 24/110/3, while the box labelled 'part 2' has CHES 24/110/1 and CHES 24/110/4. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/110/2 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 1618; English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 200mm (120mm x 180mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments C to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 1618; English; paper; bifolium; 309mm x 197mm (230mm x 181mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments D to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/114/4 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/115/3; 28 April 1620; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 105mm (280mm x 95mm); unnumbered. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/115/3 series excerpted within this collection.

See also under Northwich (p clxv) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/113/2.

Great Sessions Petition

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/3; 1616; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 200mm (240mm x 160mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to a variety of documents in a roll. The petitions in the roll are partially numbered, working backwards from number 38; this item is number 5.

Presentments for Broxton Hundred

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/116/2; 3 September 1621; English; paper; bifolium; 306mm x 203mm (156mm x 189mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

TAXAL

Great Sessions Accusations

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; undated (1617–18); English;

paper; single sheet; 303mm x 200mm (215mm x 165mm). Attached by a thong to other documents from 1617–18 in a roll.

TIMPERLEIGH

Quarter Sessions Information

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 58/4/20; 19 January 1629/30; English; paper; single sheet; 198mm x 285mm (165mm x 130mm); repaired, stained, also 'x' across main text, formerly folded in 3 vertically.

UPTON BY CHESTER

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/110/3; 16 April 1610; English; paper; bifolium; 193mm x 152mm (140mm x 120–40mm); unnumbered. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

UTKINTON

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Little Budworth (p cliii) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/2.

WEAVERHAM

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Great Budworth (p cxlviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/15 and Nether Peover (p clxiii) for BI: V.1578–9 CB.3.

WETTENHALL

Great Sessions Presentments

See under Alpraham (p lxxxix) for TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/2 (Great Sessions Presentments B).

WHITEGATE

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Barrow (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/26.

Quarter Sessions Petition

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 58/3/43; 20 October 1629; English; paper; single sheet; 310mm x 200mm (296mm x 105mm); formerly folded in 4, repaired, folded at bottom to fit file.

WILLASTON

There is no indication which of the two Willastons in Cheshire is intended here. One was in Neston parish (Wirral) and one partly in Nantwich and partly in Wybunbury parish.

Quarter Sessions Recognizance

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 10/1/1; 27 October 1580; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 723mm x 205mm; writing on both sides.

WILMSLOW

St Bartholomew's Churchwardens' Accounts

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, P 123/3466/9/1; 1585–1632; English; paper; ii + 242 + ii (2 loose scraps of paper between final leaf and flyleaf); 305mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; modern half-leather paper and board binding.

Will of Peter Crosse, Bachelor

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1621 (Peter Cross of Wilmslow, bachelor); 24 July 1621, proved 6 September; English; parchment; single membrane; 330mm x 500mm (300mm x 470mm).

Inventory of Peter Crosse, Bachelor

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1621 (Peter Cross of Wilmslow, bachelor); 1 September 1621; English; parchment; single membrane; 490mm x 105mm (140mm x 95mm).

Quarter Sessions Examinations

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 58/1/37; 8–10 April 1629; English; paper; bifolium; 297mm x 205mm (285mm x 170mm); unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 58/1/38; 10–21 April 1629; English; paper; bifolium; 294mm x 208mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

WIMBOLDS TRAFFORD

Hinde, A Faithfull Remonstrance

See under Tarvin (p clxxi) for Wing: H2063.

WISTASTON

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Barthomley (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/14.

WITHINGTON

Great Sessions Presentments

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/3; 1610–17; English and Latin; parchment; single membrane; 573mm x 328mm (523mm x 322mm). Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

Crown Book

See under Malpas (pp clv–clvi) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/3.

Quarter Sessions Presentments

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 46/1/54; 13 May 1617; English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 198mm (296mm x 178mm).

Quarter Sessions Petition

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 51/4/163; 14 January 1622/3; English; paper; single sheet; 200mm x 198mm (187mm x 112mm).

WITTON

Grammar School Records

Witton Grammar School was founded in the chapel-yard at Witton in 1558 by Sir John Deane, prebendary of Lincoln and parson of Great St Bartholomew's in London. The original endowment included lands in Wirral and houses in Chester, which Ormerod describes as 'parcel of the estates of the dissolved guild or fraternity of St. Anne in Chester.' Prescot Grammar School also received rents from a former playhouse from as early as 1603. The information about the location and size of Prescot playhouse is more detailed than that for the Witton one. Although we have evidence from Congleton of scholars performing plays (albeit not in a specified playhouse), the records do not indicate any performances by the Witton scholars.[41]

Witton Grammar School Statutes

EDA 2/1 is the first in a series of thirty-nine large, leather-bound volumes comprising bishops' registers. The series commences as a register of wills, proved and copied, and of court sentences in matrimonial cases. The foundation deed and declaration of trust and the statutes for the Witton Grammar School are on ff 388–402.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDA 2/1; 1525–78; English and Latin; paper; 411 leaves; 405mm x 254mm (text area variable); modern ink foliation; minimal decoration, some red ink; fragile condition; booklets bound together in brown leather spinal binding, probably contemporary with MS, no covers remaining.

This MS also contains entries for Brereton of Lea.

Witton Grammar School Accounts

The accounts are kept annually with the names of the feofees given in the account headings. From 1578 to 1600 the accounts begin on January, but by 1624/5 the start date shifts to 25 March. In the second book the accounts for several years, 1642–9, are conflated as are those for the period 1649–52. The accounts are annual thereafter.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, SL 300/4/1; 1578–1629; English; paper; iii + 151; 298mm x 200mm (text area variable); incomplete modern pencil pagination; columns on some pages; some enlarged headings and subheadings; overall good condition, some leaves coming loose; contemporary parchment binding, leather fastener (including metal buckle and leather strap), on front cover: 'N° 2.'

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, SL 300/4/2; 1630–1718; English; paper; iv + 396; 297mm x 195mm; unnumbered; some enlarged headings and subheadings, columns for £, s, and d ruled in orange ink; outer leaf frayed, several leaves torn at end; parchment binding.

Ecclesiastical Records

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

See under Bowdon (p xciii) for CCALS: EDV 1/22 and Great Budworth (p cxlviii) for CCALS: EDV 1/15.

Judicial Records

Crown Book

See under Christleton (p cxlii) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/2.

Quarter Sessions Order

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 68/4/28; 2 October 1634; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 300mm x 196mm (text area variable); mended with a horizontal strip of paper with unrelated fragmentary writing along the centre back, folded in 4 horizontally and again vertically, tear on back repaired with part of a deed.

Quarter Sessions Arrest Warrant

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 64/1/32; 3 March 1634/5; English; paper; single sheet; 156mm x 193mm (112mm x 145mm).

This MS also contains entries for Northwich.

Quarter Sessions Warrant for Recognizance

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 64/1/31; 5 March 1634/5; English and Latin; paper; single sheet; 267mm x 200mm (188mm x 163mm).

WRENBURY

Consistory Court Interrogatories

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 5/1571/8; 1571; English; paper; 4 sheets; 262mm x 190mm; unnumbered; damaged at edges; fastened at left edge.

WYBUNBURY

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDV 1/23; 1620–3; English and Latin; paper; i + 190; 295mm x 195mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; some discolouration and ragged edges; booklets bound with contemporary parchment sheet binding (discoloured, some holes), parchment thongs, small modern sticker on front: 'Citation | Book | 1620–1623.'

See under Barthomley (p xci) for CCALS: EDV 1/14.

Households

ASTON OF ASTON

Sir Thomas Aston of Aston was the son of John Aston. Thomas was sheriff of Cheshire in 1601 and knighted in 1603. He died in 1613.

Inventory of Sir Thomas Aston

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1613 (Sir Thomas Aston of Aston); 11–12 August 1613; English; paper; 3 leaves; 400–10mm x 310mm (360mm x 250mm); contemporary ink pagination; enlarged heading and initial 'I' of 'Inprimis'; ink has eaten through paper; attached at top with parchment tag.

Letter of Richard Allen to Sir Thomas Aston

Sir Thomas Aston of Aston was the son and heir of John Aston of Aston (d. 1615). He was created baronet 4 July 1628 and was sheriff of Cheshire in 1634–5. He supported the king in the Civil War and was taken prisoner at a skirmish in Staffordshire. He died on 24 March 1644/5 of injuries received while trying to escape from captivity in Stafford. The manor house of Sir Thomas' day does not survive, but a chapel built by him (dedicated 1637) is mentioned in Ormerod's *History*. Richard Allen 'of Green-Hill in Nether-Whitley in Cheshire'[42] married Ann, daughter of Sir Thomas Aston of Aston (d. 1613), who was the aunt of the Sir Thomas Aston of this letter.

London, British Library, Additional MS 36914; 27 March 1641; English; paper; bifolium; 302mm x 180mm (text area variable); unnumbered. Bound as ff 208–9 with other letters in modern green leather volume.

BOOTH OF DUNHAM MASSEY

Dunham Massey came into the Booth family after 1421, when Sir William Venables of Bollin died, leaving two daughters as coheiresses. It had originally been the property of the Massey family, who had held it as barons since the reign of William the Conqueror. The last Baron Massey died *c* 1341–2, after which the estate descended first to the Fittons of Bollin, then to the Venables of Bollin. One of Sir William Venables' daughters, Dowse, was married to Robert Booth, younger son of John Booth of Barton, Lancashire, and afterwards Sir Robert Booth of Dunham Massey. Booth made a legal challenge for the manor of Dunham Massey and eventually gained control of it. Dunham Massey, the house built by Sir George Booth the elder (1566–1652), is still standing and is in the control of the National Trust. The house has additions made by Sir George Booth the younger in 1655.[43]

Will of Sir William Booth

Sir William Booth of Dunham Massey (*c* 1540–79) was the son of George Booth of Dunham Massey. He was sheriff of Cheshire in 1570–1.[44]

See under Will of John Coppock, Gentleman (p cxxx) for CCALS: EDA 2/2.

Inventory of Sir William Booth

William Booth of Dunham Massey was the eldest son of Sir George Booth and the father of the second Sir George Booth, created Baron Delamere of Dunham Massey by Charles II. He died during the lifetime of his father and was buried at Bowdon on 3 May 1636.[45]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1636 (William Booth of Dunham Massey); 5 December 1636; English; parchment; 2 membranes, attached end to end; 1070mm x 180mm (873mm x 185mm); unnumbered; ink worn, folded in 3 horizontally, previously also in 4 vertically, outer folds very dirty, some cracking at folds.

BRADSHAW OF MARPLE

There were two Henry Bradshaws alive at the time of these accounts and no indication of which one was responsible for them. Henry Bradshaw of Marple was living in Wyberslegh in 1606 and was buried at Stockport in 1654. His second son, and heir by survivorship, Henry Bradshaw of Marple and Wyberslegh, was baptized at Stockport on 23 January 1599/1600, and buried there 15 March 1660/1. He served as a parliamentary colonel; his younger brother, John Bradshaw, was the presiding judge at Charles I's trial.[46]

Henry Bradshaw's Accounts

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DDX 69/9; 1635–45; English; paper; 24 leaves; 153mm x 98mm (140mm x 90mm); unnumbered; outer leaves dirty, torn in places; tied together with string.

BRERETON OF LEA

Richard Brereton of Lea Hall, near Middlewich, was the youngest son of Sir William Brereton of Brereton.[47] He died 20 August 1558. His will with a schedule of goods begins on f 396. The post mortem inventory was made by men appointed by the bishop of Chester and begins on f 398.

Will and Inventory of Richard Brereton

See under Witton (p clxxvi) for CCALS: EDA 2/1.

BRUEN OF BRUEN STAPLEFORD

Inventory of John Bruen

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1625 (John Bruen of Stapleford);

26 January 1625/6; English; parchment; single membrane; 681mm x 156mm (480mm x 137mm); folded in 2 horizontally and 4 vertically.

Hinde, A Faithfull Remonstrance

See under Tarvin (p clxxi) for Wing: H2063.

CALVELEY OF LEA

Hugh Calveley was the third son of Sir Hugh Calveley of Lea and heir to his brother, Sir George Calveley. He was born *c* 1534 and died on 1 March 1605/6.[48]

Will of Hugh Calveley, Esquire

See under Will of John Coppock, Gentleman (p cxxx) for CCALS: EDA 2/2.

DUTTON OF HATTON

The Duttons of Hatton were originally a cadet branch of the Duttons of Dutton. The two lines merged briefly when Sir Piers Dutton of Hatton inherited the Dutton of Dutton estates. He subsequently left the Dutton and Hatton lands to different sons, and the lines diverged once more. Roland Dutton (*c* 1551–1605/6) was the son of Ralph Dutton, third son of Sir Piers Dutton of Dutton and Hatton. Roland Dutton succeeded his father in 1582 and evidently made some repairs to the house at Hatton, as Ormerod records that a doorway in the quadrangle had a date of 1597 above it, with the arms of Roland Dutton and his wife, Eleanor Scriven.[49] The house is no longer extant. Roland Dutton's will was proved on 5 April 1608.

Inventory of Roland Dutton, Esquire

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1608 (Rowland Dutton of Hatton); 28 March 1604/5; English and Latin; parchment; 2 membranes, pinned together top left corner; approximately 660mm x 550mm (text area variable), 2 columns; unnumbered; written on both sides of mb [2], top to bottom; some enlarged headings and initials; folded.

FITTON OF GAWSWORTH

Will of Francis Fitton, Esquire

Francis Fitton of Gawsworth was the third son of Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth (d. 1548/9). He married Katharine, countess dowager of Northumberland, daughter and coheiress of John Neville, Lord Latimer, and died 17 June 1608 without issue.[50]

York, Borthwick Institute, Probate Register Volume 30; 1607–8; English and Latin; parchment; ii +

378 + ii; 390mm x 320mm (310mm x 240mm); ink foliation 451–828 (probably contemporary); enlarged beginnings of wills; good condition; modern cloth and leather binding.

HARDWARE OF PEELE

Henry Hardware of Peele (1587–1613) was the son of Henry Hardware, mayor of Chester (d. between 7 December 1607 and 28 February 1607/8), who was active in the suppression of the Chester plays and whose sister married John Bruen.[51]

Will of Henry Hardware, Esquire

See under Will of John Coppock, Gentleman (p cxxx) for CCALS: EDA 2/2.

LECHE OF CARDEN

John Leche of Carden (d. 1657), serjeant at law, was the son and heir of John Leche of Carden. He was appointed serjeant at law for the county palatine of Chester in 1625. He married Alice, daughter of William Aldersey, merchant, of Chester, which brought some of the Aldersey papers, notably the Aldersey memorandum book, to the Leche family. His house at Carden Park was plundered by the parliamentarians in 1643 and he was taken prisoner to Nantwich.[52] Carden Park survived the Civil War and in 1989 underwent a 'major transformation' to become a hotel, golf resort, and spa. It is not clear how much, if any, of the original building remains.

John Leche's Accounts

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DLE 86; 1618–33; English; paper; 19 leaves; 138mm x 80mm (text area variable); ink pagination 1–96 (pp 20 and 21 twice, pp 22 and 23 thrice), upside down from back ink pagination 5–52, followed by 1 folio torn out and 1 unnumbered (inside covers written on); columns for £, s, and d ruled roughly by hand, text written from both ends of MS; white parchment on vellum binding with string at spine, fasteners remnants of original studs with green ribbon, some staining.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DLE 87; 1633–89; English; paper; 100 leaves; 294mm x 204mm; contemporary ink pagination from both front and back: front section paginated 1–115, back 1–52 (several blank pages in the centre), first leaf of both front and back unnumbered (contains table of contents); modern pink and blue ink marginalia, underlining, and notes; parchment binding, with leather strengtheners at binding points on spine.

LEGH OF LYME

For Lyme Hall and the Legh family tree, see Historical Background, p xxxii.

Indenture between Peter Legh and John Bruche

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Muniments, Box R, B.20; 17 February 1589/90; English; paper; single sheet; 220mm x 335mm (130mm x 290mm); seal attached, a strip, folded back and stuck at bottom, supports seal tag.

Legh Household Expenses (AC)

Evelyn Caroline (d. 1931), daughter of William Bromley Davenport, married Thomas Wodehouse, 2nd Lord Newton (1857–1942), in 1880. Evelyn Caroline is described as a 'vivacious and pretty wife' and 'the first Englishwoman to be painted by J. Singer Sargent.'[53] *The House of Lyme* was one of two books she wrote about Lyme Hall. It draws on material from a book of household accounts, which cannot now be found. All the records of the family were deposited at the John Rylands Library of the University of Manchester but this account book was not among them. A handwritten catalogue in the possession of the Rylands, shown to one of the editors, does mention the account book, with a note that it had been given to Lady Newton in 1912. The library has been unable to trace it and has suggested that it may still be in the possession of the family. If so, it has not been traced. Lyme Park is now in the keeping of the National Trust, and the archivist there was also unable to find the volume.

Evelyn Caroline Legh, Baroness Newton, *The House of Lyme from its Foundation to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (London, 1917).

Letter of Anthony St John to Sir Peter Legh

Manchester, John Rylands Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 5; undated (1598–1636); English; paper; bifolium; 197mm x 146mm (188mm x 143mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 horizontally, then in 3 vertically.

Quarter Sessions Information

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 39/4/22; 23 December 1610; English; paper; bifolium; 310mm x 200mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

Letter of Thomas Legh of Adlington to Sir Peter Legh

Thomas Legh of Adlington (*c* 1593–1644) was the son and heir of Sir Urian Legh of Adlington. He was sheriff of Cheshire (1628–9, 1642–3) and a colonel in the royal army (1643–4). He succeeded to the Adlington estates in 1629 after the probable date of this letter.[54]

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 4; 29 January 1610/11; English; paper; bifolium; 293mm x 192mm (280mm x 189mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 horizontally, then 3 vertically; small red seal, device of Legh of Adlington: a unicorn's head couped, armed, and maned, on the neck a cross-patence.

Letters of Sir John Egerton to Sir Peter Legh

Sir John Egerton, second son and heir by survivorship of Sir Thomas Egerton, Viscount Brackley and Lord Ellesmere, was created 2nd earl of Bridgwater in 1617. He was the half-nephew of Dorothy, Sir Peter's second wife, who was the daughter of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley.[55]

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 2; 18 February 1612/13; English; paper; bifolium; 303mm x 191mm (237mm x 184mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 horizontally and 3 vertically; red Egerton seal of lion rampant supporting a dart (broken when letter opened).

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 2; 27 November 1615; English; paper; bifolium; 261mm x 181mm (245mm x 164mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 horizontally, then vertically; small red seal (split) adhering to paper, device unclear (probably Egerton crest).

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 2; 24 February 1615/16; English; paper; bifolium; 304mm x 210mm (225mm x 165mm); unnumbered; writing also in left margin and bottom left corner; folded in 3 horizontally and 3 vertically; small red seal intact, bearing Egerton crest.

Letter of Sir Peter Legh to Dorothy Legh

Dorothy Legh was the daughter of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, Cheshire, and the widow of Richard Brereton of Tatton and Worsley, Lancashire. She was Sir Peter Legh's second wife and died in 1639.[56]

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 7; 23 March 1620/1; English; paper; bifolium; 300mm x 207mm (298mm x 205mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 horizontally, then 3 vertically; small yellow-brown seal, crest with ram's head with branch in mouth, rising from crown.

Letter of Sir Richard Molyneux to Sir Peter Legh

Sir Richard Molyneux was the son of Sir Richard Molyneux, baronet, of Sefton. He was advanced to the peerage of Ireland as 1st Viscount Molyneux of Maryborough on 22 December 1628. His mother was the daughter of Sir Gilbert Gerard of Sudbury, master of the rolls. He was therefore related to Sir Peter Legh through Sir Peter's first wife, another daughter of Sir Gilbert Gerard. He died 8 May 1636.

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 5; 11 June (1622–36);

English; paper; bifolium; 200mm x 150mm (146mm x 140mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 vertically and horizontally; small fragment of seal, possibly of part of an animal.

Sir Peter Legh's Building Accounts

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Muniments; Deeds, Box Z^a and Z^b Bundle B (185); 23 October 1623; English; paper; single sheet; 385mm x 310mm (216mm x 200mm); now in 3 pieces.

Letter of Peter Legh to Thomas Legh

Peter Legh of Bruche, Lancashire (1599–1641), was a younger son of Sir Peter Legh of Lyme. His brother, Thomas, received his doctorate in divinity at Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1634 and was subsequently rector of Sefton and Walton in Lancashire. Thomas died in 1639 and his son Richard later inherited the Lyme estate.[57]

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 8; 30 April (1630–2); English; paper; bifolium; 203mm x 155mm (197mm x 154mm); unnumbered; folded in half horizontally, and 3 vertically; small red seal, device not clear, possibly lion or leopard or griffin rampant.

Letter of John Bradshaw to Sir Peter Legh

John Bradshaw (*c* 1602–59) was the third son of Henry Bradshaw of Marple. He went on to become a chief justice of Chester, serjeant at law, presiding judge at the trial of Charles I, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and MP for Cheshire.

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 3; 2 December 1632; English; paper; bifolium; 310mm x 195/198mm (295mm x 190mm); unnumbered; written in pencil at head of f [1]: 'To Sir Peter Legh?'

Letter of Henry Lawes to Sir Peter Legh

Henry Lawes (*c* 1595–1662) was a musician and composer. He was made a gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1626 and was appointed to the king's music in 1631. He provided the music for Milton's masque *Comus*, performed at Ludlow Castle at Michaelmas 1634. He published several collections of songs and was praised by his contemporaries as both a performer and a composer. After the Restoration his court appointments were restored and he wrote the coronation anthem for Charles II.

Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Legh of Lyme Correspondence, folder 4 (Letters to Sir Peter Legh, Lord of Lyme 1590–1636); 5 February 1634/5; English; paper; bifolium; 309mm x 200mm (290mm x 170–90mm); unnumbered; folded in 3 horizontally and vertically; small red seal intact adhering to paper, device possibly flower or shield (uneven) with branches underneath and possibly crown on top.

Inventory of Sir Peter Legh the Younger

Sir Peter Legh of Lyme the younger was the grandson of Sir Peter Legh (*c* 1563–1636). He was killed in a duel in 1641/2.[58]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, WS 1642 (Sir Peter Legh of Lyme); 30 March 1638; Latin and English; parchment; 2 membranes; 680mm x 295mm (length variable x 270mm); unnumbered; margins, lines, and columns for £, s, and d ruled, enlarged 'A True' and 'Inprimis' at beginning of document; tied together at the top with parchment tags, serrated top.

MORETON OF MORETON

The seat of the Moreton family was at Little Moreton Hall, near Congleton, one of the finest surviving timber-frame manor houses in Cheshire. It was probably begun in the late fifteenth century in the reign of Henry VII and added to at various stages.[59] An inscription on the front of the house states that the windows were added by William Moreton in 1559. His grandson, William Moreton of Moreton (1577–1654), was the addressee of the following letters, written by his fourth son, Peter Moreton. Peter Moreton later became Charles I's ambassador to Genoa and Tuscany.[60]

Letters of Peter Moreton to William Moreton

London, British Library, Additional MS 33935; 17 September 1624; English; paper; bifolium; 303mm x 211mm (242mm x 170mm); unnumbered; folded several times horizontally and vertically. Bound in a volume with other Moreton letters as ff 56–7.

London, British Library, Additional MS 33936; 12 March 1631/2; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 205mm; unnumbered; folded several times horizontally; half of small red wax seal remaining (wolf or another animal head couped and gorged). Bound in a volume with other Moreton letters as f 15.

NEWTON OF NEWTON AND POWNALL

Pownall Hall, in Wilmslow parish, came into the possession of Humphry Newton (1466–1537), son of Richard Newton of Newton, in Prestbury parish, through his marriage with Elizabeth Fitton. There were subsequent members of the family named Humphry; the most likely owner of this book was Humphry Newton, son and heir of William Newton of Pownall, who died without issue a few months after his father in 1621.[61] The book was received in 1655 by John Ward of Monks' Heath, Cheshire, husband of Humphry Newton's sister, Margaret Pownall, from John Booth of Twemlow. John Booth of Twemlow was a distant cousin of the Newtons.

Humphry Newton's Commonplace Book

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Lat. misc. c. 66; before 1656; Latin and English; paper; 154 leaves;

average size 310mm x 220mm (text area variable); modern foliation, more than 1 set of numbers (5 unnumbered at end); separately mounted and gatherings reorganized with former casing, now boxed, in brown leather and board.

SAVAGE OF ROCKSAVAGE

The Savages of Rocksavage were one of the more influential families in Cheshire. In 1485 a Sir John Savage had commanded the left wing at the battle of Bosworth Field and was, with the earl of Derby, instrumental in Henry VII's victory. He was rewarded with lands in various counties. Their seat was originally at Clifton Hall but in 1565 Sir John Savage built a new house on the same site which he called Rocksavage. From 1574–5 to 1578–9 he alternated between styling himself 'of Clifton' and 'of Rocksavage,' but after 1579 he used Rocksavage exclusively. He was sheriff of Cheshire six times and mayor of Chester three times (see p 1017, endnote to CCALS: ZAB 1 f 159v). He died on 5 December 1597. He had five sons and five daughters; his eldest son, John, was created a baronet in 1611 and was mayor and sheriff of Chester in 1607.[62]

Inventory of John Lumley, Lord Lumley

The following inventory mentions goods belonging to Sir Thomas Savage of Rocksavage, the second son and heir of Sir John Savage. Lady Elizabeth Lumley was aunt to Sir Thomas Savage's wife.[63]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/K 6/4; 20 April 1609; English; parchment; 10 membranes, sewn together end to end; 6580mm x 134mm (text area variable); contemporary numbering, first membrane numbered '2,' some numbers not visible being folded into stitching; writing mainly 1 side, some illegible writing at bottom on second side; headings enlarged; ink rubbed off in places, some tears and holes.

Frodsham Manor Accounts

The manor of Frodsham was granted to the Savages in the beginning of the seventeenth century.[64]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/F 194; 3 October 1622; English; paper; 17 sheets, sewn together with string at top; 385mm x 305mm (300mm x 172mm); 17th-c. pagination; folded in 4 horizontally, back leaf dirty, partially torn.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/F 197; 9 October 1623; English; paper; 18 sheets, sewn together with string at top; 365mm x 295mm (333mm x 155mm); 17th-c. pagination; folded in 4 horizontally, torn and very ragged along folds and on back pages.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/F 198; 14 September 1624; English; paper; 23 sheets, sewn together at top with string; 370mm x 296mm (335mm x 155mm); 17th-c. ink pagination; overall good condition, some dirt and flaking on back page, folded in 4 horizontally.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/F 201; 30 September 1625; English and Latin; paper; 23 sheets, joined at top with string; 383mm x 210mm (text area variable); contemporary ink pagination; outer leaf dirty, a bit ragged, other leaves somewhat ragged at edges, folded in 2 horizontally.

Inventory of Thomas, Viscount Savage

Sir Thomas Savage was created Viscount Savage by Charles I on 6 November 1626. He was chancellor of the queen's court at Westminster and died in London but was buried at Macclesfield, Cheshire, on 16 December 1635. He inherited Long Melford in Suffolk from his grandmother, Jane, sister and heiress of Sir William Cordell, master of the rolls. The inventory lists goods at Rocksavage, Melford, and his house near St Olave towards the Tower in London.[65]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DCH/X 15/10; January– February 1635/6; English; parchment; 13 membranes; 7650mm x 180mm (text area variable); unnumbered; text 1 side only; enlarged headings; torn and faded at bottom end of roll. The membranes are not in date order: the editorially assigned numbering refers to the present physical order of the manuscripts as opposed to the chronological order.

SOMERFORD OF SOMERFORD

The family of Somerford was seated in the township of Somerford Radnor from at least the reign of Edward III and probably earlier. It became extinct in the male line in the sixteenth century. John Somerford was the son of William Somerford of Somerford, and died in August 1577, apparently leaving a son, John, who also died before the inquisition post mortem in 1579–80, and a daughter, Mary, who became the sole heiress (see below). The second John is only presumed to have existed because he is mentioned in a document after the first John's death and in conjunction with his mother as a widow.[66] It is not clear which John Somerford is referred to in the following document, as Ormerod does not give birth dates for either one. He was apparently in the guardianship of Charles Mainwaring (*c* 1528–86), of Croxton, who was the son and heir of Charles Mainwaring of Croxton. Mary Somerford's guardian was probably William Brereton, and her mother married a second time, to Gilbert Domville of Lymm. Mary Somerford married Philip Oldfield in 1600.[67] Thomas Madock is described in other Somerford documents as 'Mr. Smith's man' but nothing more is known about him. He was evidently responsible for John Somerford at Oxford.

Letter of Thomas Madock to Charles Mainwaring

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/7/7/2; 18 June 1562; English; paper; single sheet; 305mm x 205mm (150mm x 175mm); text 1 side only; seal lost.

Disbursements for Mary Somerford

Although there is no specific mention of Mary Somerford in the latest of these documents

(DSS 1/7/11/22), the internal evidence suggests that it, like the two others (DSS 1/7/6/45 and 46), relates to disbursements made for her benefit.

DSS 1/7/6/45, f [1], refers to 'money disbursed for [to] my doughter in lawe Mary Som*er*ford.' As the phrase 'doughter in lawe' can mean stepdaughter at this period, the accounts may belong to Mary Somerford's stepfather, Gilbert Domville of Lymm. Mary Somerford was the daughter and heiress by survivorship of John Somerford of Somerford.[68] Her guardian was probably William Brereton. Mary Somerford married Philip Oldfield in 1600.[69]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/7/6/46; 1597; English and French; paper; 8 leaves; 305mm x 202mm (text area variable); unnumbered; fastened together at top left corner.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/7/6/45; 1598; English; paper; 12 leaves; 305mm x 205mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/7/11/22; 1599; English; paper; 2 sheets; f [1]: 203mm x 149–54mm, f [2]: 205mm x 113mm (text area variable); unnumbered.

WILBRAHAM OF NANTWICH

The Wilbrahams of Nantwich were a branch of the Wilbrahams of Woodhey, established by Randulph, second son of Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey. They settled in Nantwich early in the sixteenth century. Their seat was at Townsend, at the end of Welsh Row in Nantwich. The house was erected in 1571 and is now an inn, the Wilbraham Arms.[70]

Thomas Wilbraham's Accounts

Thomas Wilbraham (1589–1643) was the son of Richard Wilbraham, common serjeant of the city of London, and the grandson of Richard Wilbraham of Nantwich. He was both an esquire of the body (1628) and a gentleman of the privy chamber extraordinary (1639).[71]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DBW/P/J 7; 4 November 1620–19 December 1642; English and French; paper; 99 leaves; 193mm x 153mm; unnumbered (ff 67–70 blank); 2 leaves at front and back stuck together to form a cover and glued to an outer wrapper, to which the booklet is also attached by 3 leather ties and double stitching along the spine.

WILBRAHAM OF WOODHEY

Letter of Richard Wilbraham to Sir Richard Grosvenor

Sir Richard Wilbraham (*c* 1578–1643) was the son and heir of Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey. He was created baronet in 1621 and died a prisoner of the king in 1643. Sir Richard Grosvenor (1584–1645) was created a baronet in 1621/2 and was sheriff of Cheshire in 1623–4 and

Denbighshire in 1624–5. He was MP for Cheshire in 1620, 1626, and 1627. His first wife was Sir Richard Wilbraham's sister, Elizabeth.[72]

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, ZCR 63/2/691/6; 20 December 1634; English; paper; bifolium; 302mm x 202mm (270mm x 173mm); unnumbered; remains of seal.

Hinde, A Faithfull Remonstrance

See under Tarvin (p clxxi) for Wing: H2063.

WINNINGTON OF BIRCHES

Elizabeth Winnington, wife of Paul Winnington of Birches, was one of several daughters of Sir Thomas Cutler of Stainborough, Yorkshire. She was married *c* 1626, and from her marriage until *c* 1633 she corresponded with members of her family, particularly her sister Margaret, who married Robert Lowther of London in 1628, and her brother, Sir Gervase Cutler.[73] She had at least two other sisters, who are mentioned in her correspondence, Ellen, wife of a Mr Cartwright of Beddington, Surrey, and Dorothy. Elizabeth Winnington was buried at Witton Chapel on 3 April 1667. Ormerod describes Birches as a large brick mansion, used by then as a farmhouse.[74] Her papers came into the Shakerley collection through intermarriage in subsequent generations.

Letters of Margaret and Robert Lowther to Elizabeth Winnington

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/4/38/11; 8 April 1629; English; paper; single sheet; 151mm x 198mm (text area variable); formerly folded in 2 vertically, then 3 vertically, 3 horizontally; small red seal (split), device of crowned heart pierced with crossed arrows.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/4/38/13; 1629; English; paper; single sheet; 150mm x 145mm; formerly folded in 2 vertically, then 3 vertically, 2 horizontally; some damage (tear on left margin has removed a message in margin); stamped with intertwined 'R' and 'L' inside a wreath.

Letter of Margaret Lowther to Elizabeth Winnington

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/4/38/12; 14 April 1629; English; paper; single sheet; 210mm x 298mm (180mm x 130mm); formerly folded in 2 vertically, then 3 vertically and 4 horizontally; small red seal, device of crowned heart pierced with crossed arrows.

County of Cheshire

There are a number of items that cannot be specifically identified with a single location. Some of these relate to orders attempting to control entertainment for the whole county, others refer to activities occurring in more than one location, or for which no location is specified.

GREAT SESSIONS FINES

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/1/2; 1342–3; Latin; parchment; single membrane; 70mm x 100mm (32mm x 95mm).

JUSTICES' ORDER AGAINST WAKES AND LOVE-ALES

See under Letterbook of Christopher Goodman (p cxxxvii) for DRO: DD/PP/839.

QUARTER SESSIONS ARTICLES

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DDX 43/42; *c* 1561; English; paper; single sheet; 314mm x 205mm (text area variable); folded, slightly stained.

GREAT SESSIONS PRESENTMENTS

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/96/1; 1565–6; English; paper; single sheet; 207mm x 203mm (text area variable), 2 columns in lower part of sheet; unnumbered; some damage but overall good condition. Bound at the top with parchment tag to sixty-five other documents. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments B to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/96/1 series excerpted within this collection.

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/96/1; 1565–6; English; paper; bifolium; MS dimensions and text area measurements unavailable due to conservation restrictions; unnumbered. Bound at the top with parchment tag to sixty-five other documents. Editorially titled Great Sessions Presentments C to distinguish it from other MSS in the CHES 24/96/1 series excerpted within this collection.

CONSISTORY COURT BOOKS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 1/26; 1586–90; Latin and English; paper; i + 461 + vii; 435mm x 290mm (text area variable); modern pencil foliation; very dirty, early leaves torn, water damage; brown leather binding over cardboard (much torn in front), stamped pattern on leather visible in places, metal piece for clasp survives on back cover.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, EDC 1/47; 8 June 1626; English and Latin; paper; 8 leaves; 292mm x 198mm; unnumbered; 'Acta' enlarged in heading; whole dirty and ragged; originally 4 sheets, folded and stitched at spine (outer sheet torn and detached, between ff [5] and [6]). This is a loose booklet interleaved in EDC 1/47 before the folio headed 'viij^{o} Novembris 1627' (approximately f [246]).

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH ON ABUSES IN CHESHIRE

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, SP 12/240; 2 June 1591; English; paper;

bifolium; 308mm x 182mm; unnumbered. Now bound in a guardbook with other documents at ff 223–3v and numbered 138.

ORDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The order is a copy of a letter in a lieutenancy letterbook, a collection made by Sir Hugh Cholmondeley of correspondence to and from the privy council and various officials of Cheshire about mustering and equipping men and horses, and other related matters.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DDX 358/1; 1595–1605; English; paper; x + 130 + ii; 310mm x 210mm; contemporary ink foliation 1–84, f [85] unnumbered, ff [86–90] erroneously numbered 76–80, ff [91–116] unnumbered, ff [117–30] also unnumbered and bound upside-down from back of book; leather on board binding with tooled decoration, bottom half of spine lost, front and back covers detached from volume.

INVENTORY OF JOHN KAYE

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, DSS 1/7/2; 20 November 1598; English; paper; single sheet; 295mm x 201mm (270mm x 175mm).

ORDERS TO THE JUSTICES OF CHESHIRE

Chester, Eaton Hall, Grosvenor MS 2/31; undated (1603); English; paper; bifolium; f [1]: 275mm x 170mm, f [2]: 137mm x 168mm; unnumbered; bottom half of second folio cut off, 3 horizontal folds.

CROWN BOOKS

See under Christleton (p cxlii) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/2 and Malpas (pp clv–clvi) for TNA: PRO CHES 21/3.

QUARTER SESSIONS INFORMATION

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 40/4/15; 20 October 1611; English; paper; single sheet; 143mm x 203mm (64mm x 165mm).

GREAT SESSIONS ORDER AGAINST WAKES

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/113/3; 1616; English; paper; bifolium; 305mm x 200mm (190mm x 175mm); unnumbered. Attached to other documents by a parchment thong.

LIST OF ARTICLES FOR JUSTICES

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, CHES 24/114/4; 11 September 1618; Latin and English; paper; single sheet; 306mm x 203mm (248mm x 155mm); text 1 side only. Attached by a thong to other documents in a roll.

QUARTER SESSIONS PETITIONS

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 49/3/80; 10 October 1620; English; paper; bifolium; 302mm x 206mm (201mm x 180mm); unnumbered.

Chester, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, QJF 58/4/17; 19 January 1629/30; English; paper; single sheet; 206mm x 236mm (195mm x 130mm); formerly folded in 3 vertically, repaired and backed.

CLARKE, *A MIRROR OR LOOKING GLASS BOTH FOR SAINTS AND SINNERS*

Samuel Clarke (see *ODNB*), son of a cleric, was born on 10 December 1599 in Wolston, Warwickshire, and died on 25 December 1682. His uncle, Sabbath Clarke, held the living of Tarvin in Cheshire for some forty years until his ejection for non-conformity in 1662. Educated at Coventry School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Samuel became curate in Cheshire but left after disputes with the ecclesiastical authorities over vestments and ceremonies. After periods in his father's parish at Worston and as assistant at St Mary's Church in Warwick, he was appointed to the living of Alcester in Warwickshire. He moved to London in 1643 and took a leading role in presbyterian organization and campaigning. In 1662 he was ejected from his living after refusing the Oath of Conformity and moved to Ishworth in Middlesex. Most of his time after the Restoration was given over to writing. His *Mirrour or Looking-Glasse Both for Saints and Sinners* was first published in 1646 (Wing: C4548) but was subsequently enlarged. The passage quoted does not appear in the first or second edition.

A | Mirror | or | *Looking glass* | Both for SAINTS & SINERS | *wherein* | is Recorded, as Gods Great | Goodness to the one, so | his Seveare Iudgment^{s} | Against the other. | wherevnto | is added a Geographi- | call Description of | all the knowne world | *as also* | *of the Chiefest City's Both* | *Ancient and modern &c* | By | SAMV: CLARKE | *R Gaywood fecit Lond.* | 1656. Wing: C4551.

Editorial Procedures

Principles of Selection

This edition attempts to include all records before 1642 of dramatic, musical, and ceremonial activity in the county of Cheshire as it existed before the reorganization of local government in 1974 (see above, p xiii). It incorporates an updated and revised edition of Lawrence M. Clopper's 1979 REED edition on Chester, as well as completely new material from the rest of the county. Dramatic activity ranges from visiting professional players to the Chester Whitsun play to plays performed by the scholars and the townsmen in Congleton to isolated incidents involving mimicry, such as the fourteenth-century conjuring of a 'devil' (costumed and hidden in a previously dug pit) at Clifton, or the piper Richard Metyer's mimicry of the local curate at Siddington in 1624. Musicians in Cheshire cover the entire social range, from the fair-time rabble of minstrels and whores who rescued Earl Ranulph de Blundeville in the twelfth century to the Chester waits and singers from Chester Cathedral performing in the Whitsun Plays, to visiting composers and musicians such as Henry Lawes, to members of the gentry playing musical instruments for their own entertainment. As a county Cheshire appears to have had a large number of resident musicians, possibly because of the relative protection from the Statute of Vagabonds provided by the Dutton licensing system. A list of all those described as musicians, minstrels, or musical performers that we have found in the records, whether performing or otherwise, can be found in Appendix 6.

The selection of records of ceremonial activity has been limited to secular events, the most notable of which is the Chester Midsummer Show, which included giants, naked boys, and figures from the Whitsun Plays such as the cups and canes of the ale-wife from the Innkeepers' 'Harrowing of Hell' pageant. Royal and noble visits are also included where there is evidence that they were accompanied by mimetic ceremony, music, or drama; a list of all royal and noble visitors to Chester can be found in Appendix 2. Other traditional customs with mimetic qualities include May games, maypoles, and rush-bearings. Animal entertainments such as bearbaiting, bullbaiting, cockfighting, and horseracing were also popular in the county.

It has been necessary, however, to exclude some events which may nevertheless have involved musical entertainment. In accordance with REED's policy records of rush-bearings are included only where they include references to music, dancing, or similar performance activities. Documents referring to wakes, love-ales, and Welsh weddings are not included unless they refer to accompanying performative activities. Ales, unless music is specified, have been excluded. Unspecified offences by pipers and other musicians cited in the visitation books are a greater problem. The most usual offence a musician could commit that would bring him to the notice of the ecclesiastical courts was performing during the time of divine service, and it is tempting to assume that all unspecified offences are performance-related. However musicians could and did commit a wide variety of offences, and certainty about an unspecified one is impossible.

There are two exceptions to this selective procedure. First, in Chester court cases relating to breaches of the peace and brawls among the various musical groups, notably involving members of the Cally family, are included as indicating the complex relationships, partnerships, and tensions among Chester's musicians during the sixteenth century. Second, the various court appearances of the piper Richard Metyer, variously of Siddington, Swettenham, and Withington, are included as documenting in unusual detail the wanderings of a locally itinerant musician and the disruptions that he could generate.

The approach to the survey of the records has, of necessity, been concentrated on classes of documents likely to produce the most material. Guild records and quarter sessions files in the CCALS have been thoroughly surveyed but wills have only been consulted where the catalogue, printed material, or advice from other researchers indicated that there was relevant material. In the much larger and more lightly catalogued Cheshire collection in the Public Record Office, the most successful method was found to be an initial survey of the crown books, which serve the same purpose in the secular courts as the visitation books do in the ecclesiastical courts, and contain memoranda of offences and verdicts. This was followed by a check of the relevant dates of county court and court of great sessions records on which the crown book entries were based. In the final edition the crown book evidence is usually referred to only in the endnotes, unless it provides the only record of an event. As, however, the crown books tend to be rather late, an attempt was also made to survey as much of the judicial material as was feasible. Although much remains unsurveyed the rate of return was sufficiently small to make this a low priority.

As mentioned above, there are cases, such as the crown books, where the same information is recorded in more than one document. These may be different stages of a judicial process or rough and fair copies of accounts. In these cases preference has usually been given to the earlier record, unless fuller information is given in the later one. Endnotes provide references to the other documents, and clarify the choice of documents in specific cases.

Particular problems are presented by the various antiquarian documents relating to Chester, specifically the Breviaries of Chester by David Rogers and the various lists of the city's mayors and sheriffs (see further, pp cvii–cxvii, cxxxvii–cxl). Within each category – the Breviary versions and lists – there are extensive similarities of wording and detail, but there are also variants among them which may constitute significant evidence or be merely idiosyncratic or stylistic variants. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of material the following editorial practices have been adopted.

The earliest extant version of the Breviary of 1609 is taken as the base text and relevant items are transcribed in full. Variants of a limited character are given as collation.[1] Differences in spelling, capitalization, forms of abbreviation, word division, or punctuation are not noted. Also overlooked are cancellations and corrections in the collation MSS that result in readings matching that of the base text; omission or addition of definite and indefinite articles; word order where sense is not affected; variations between compound or extended forms (eg, 'while/whiles,' 'foresaid/aforesaid,' 'rise/arise,' 'to/vnto'); and inclusion or omission of coordinate conjunctions, particularly in the sets of company names (eg, 'Weavers Walkers'/'Weavers and Walkers'). Where additional or variant material of a more extensive character appears in later versions, that material is transcribed under the date assigned to that version and notes embedded in the collation to the 1609 version refer the reader to material held in common. In the case of MSS DCC 19 and Harley 1948, which share such additional material, DCC 19 is the base text for collation with Harley 1948. Additional collated MSS are described in The Documents.

The thirty-four Mayors Lists so far identified present a complex network of inter-relationships. The lists fall into two categories – those that begin with the mayoralty of Sir John Arneway and those that follow the revised order of William Aldersey. In selecting from the Mayors List entries for transcription, the first list of BL: Harley MS 2125 (ML 5), CCALS: ZCR 469/542 (ML 12), and CCALS: DLE 135 (ML 15) have been given priority for inclusion, ie, relevant entries have always been transcribed from these manuscripts regardless of whether they duplicate each other or not. CCALS: DLE 135 (ML 15) is the final corrected Aldersey List of Mayors (1594) and appears to be the most accurate. CCALS: ZCR 469/542 (ML 12) is an earlier version of the Aldersey list which yielded the most interesting variants. BL: Harley MS 2125 (ML 5) was favoured because it was written by Bellin, a usually reliable scribe, and because Randle Holme II annotated it. Entries from other Mayors Lists are selected individually on the basis of their content: those which provide the most details or which contain significant variants have been reproduced fully no matter what list they may appear in. Entries which are similar in language but which contain less information are noted only. No attempt has been made to collate the variants since the relationships between the lists are too complex to allow the establishment of a copy text and the listing of variants; moreover, since all the variant entries are substantively available in the printed text, it did not seem necessary to record minor and accidental variations.

Where accounts exist both in rough (or draft) form and in neat (or finished) form, preference is given to the neat version, which may be considered more 'official,' unless the rough text preserves details lost in the neat text. When two or more copies of the same document survive we have recorded the location of the copies and noted any substantive variants in the Endnotes.

Antiquarian Records

Antiquarian activity in Chester was quite strong as early as the sixteenth century and to it we owe the preservation of the Whitsun play-texts and the history of their performances, as well as records of other ceremonial and quasi-dramatic activity. Many of these antiquarian productions had their roots not in amateur dilettantism but in a concern to preserve the city's history and to maintain its liberties and customs. Perhaps the earliest documents are the lists of mayors and sheriffs, which undertook to establish the antiquity of the city's liberties and to fix the succession of mayors; to these, in later years, were added chronicles or notes of the significant events in the city's history.

By the end of the century several antiquarians were at work. Archdeacon Robert Rogers had begun collecting materials for his history of the city but left it uncompleted at his death in 1595. His son, David Rogers, is known solely for his completion of Archdeacon Rogers' Breviary. Between 1609 and about 1637, he produced five copies of four different versions of his father's history; nevertheless the Breviary was ascribed to the archdeacon by all the seventeenth-century antiquarians who made use of it (see Appendix 4). In 1594 Mayor William Aldersey issued a more accurate List of Mayors based on documentary evidence in his and the city's possession; his calendar, furthermore, was the first to place the establishment of the city's liberties in the thirteenth rather than the fourteenth century. George Bellin, the scribe, until 1622, for the Coopers, the Mercers, and the Shoemakers, transcribed and emended Lists of Mayors and copied two of the play manuscripts and the Coopers' pageant, as well as numerous other documents.

The four Randle Holmes are Chester's greatest transmitters of antiquarian material. All were members of the Painters' company and became prominent in the governance of the city, in addition to their involvement in church and guild affairs. They were also heralds, and by far the greatest amount of material that they produced is genealogical records. Although the middle two seem to have been most active, as a group they were responsible for producing or collecting over 200 volumes of material dealing with Chester, an immense collection of manuscripts which now forms MSS 1920–2277 in the Harley collection. However the only one of the four who seems to have produced records relevant to the present collection is Randle Holme II, active from the 1630s into the 1660s. Like his father he seems to have been involved in preparing the city's ancient or standard each year, in helping to revive the city's giants and other creatures for the Midsummer Show, in preparing many of the guilds' standards for the Midsummer Watch, and in performing other tasks associated with his craft. He was also a churchwarden of St Oswald's. He was a very active and reliable scribe who in many cases reproduced the same spellings, abbreviations, contractions, and the like of his manuscript source. While in other cases he may have made minor spelling variations, expanded an ampersand, contracted an 'and,' or made other similar expansions and contractions, these minor alterations need not undermine our confidence in the accuracy of the large quantity of records that he was responsible for transmitting.

Although we can be reasonably confident of Holme's accuracy, we cannot be assured of that of other scribes; consequently it is necessary that we try to make some distinctions about the kinds of records extant and their degree of accuracy. The documents least likely to be transmitted inaccurately are those which simply require the copying of an original text. Among these are guild and churchwardens' accounts of expenditure, ordinances of the city council, and letters and petitions to the mayor and city council. Of course it is possible for a scribe to make an error in transcription and evidentiary cases ideally should be built either on several bits of the same kind of evidence or on uncontaminated evidence from original sources; in any event scholars who use these primary antiquarian records should remain sceptical of them and not build their cases on unique references which could be erroneous.

Once a primary antiquarian document of this type has been assimilated into some other kind of production, then we are confronted with a different problem of accuracy. While forgeries of primary documents do take place, it is difficult to imagine that a scribe would sit down and invent lists of expenditure for a guild or an ordinance for the city. The same is not the case for a 'history,' for histories, whether consciously or piously, are often fabricated. For example the antiquarians of Chester piously produced a catalogue of mayors which began with John Arneway in 1328. When the Whitsun Plays came under attack the antiquarians claimed that the plays started in Arneway's term of office and were produced over a three-day period at Whitsuntide even though we know that, if the plays existed at all in 1328, they were produced on Corpus Christi Day alone. The fraud was partially exposed by Mayor William Aldersey, who claimed that extant documents showed the first mayor to be Sir Walter Lynnett in the time of Henry III and that Arneway was mayor about 1278–88, a fact documented by extant charters; moreover Aldersey dropped all references to the invention of the plays from the list he issued in 1594.

Earlier Mayors Lists seem to have had a wider circulation than the Aldersey list, but we know that the Aldersey list got to other antiquarians even if it did not always have the desired results. For example in the first three versions of the Breviary, David Rogers writes that the plays were initiated by the first mayor of Chester about 1328, but in the last two versions he writes that they were initiated in the first year of Arneway's term about 1328. From another note in the second version it is clear that David came across the information that Arneway was not the first mayor; nevertheless he retained the incorrect date of Arneway's term and passed on the tradition that Arneway invented the Whitsun Plays.

This tradition is an easily recognized fabrication – although no one questioned the story before this century – and F.M. Salter has provided a plausible explanation for how the story came about.[2] But some antiquarian statements may seem to be fabrications when they are not, or they may be too hastily dismissed as nonsense on the grounds that they are self-contradictory. For example David Rogers does not always pay enough attention to the documents he is transmitting to eliminate the contradictions. In his description of the plays he says that there are twenty-four pageants and then he appends a list of twenty-five. Salter used this discrepancy as an illustration of David's untrustworthiness without noting that the Late Banns say that the cycle contains twenty-four pageants – David's source for the first statement – whereas the List of Companies and Their Parts, which circulated as an independent document, lists twenty-five – David's second source.[3] The differences in computation depend on whether one counts the Coopers' and Ironmongers' plays as one (as does MS H) or two (as do the four group MSS HmABR).[4] The point is not that David is inconsistent or inaccurate but that he copied two traditions, each of which happens to be accurate within certain limits.

The antiquarians' failure to examine critically the documents that they were transmitting tends to undermine our confidence in the antiquarians' statements; nevertheless, when used with caution, antiquarian materials can be relied upon precisely because the antiquarians were uncritical. One is struck by the fact that the Chester antiquarians almost always copied what they saw even if it did not make sense or if it contradicted something else that they had copied. If an antiquarian merely transmits what he sees, then it is likely that a document has been transmitted without error from its moment of origin to the time that the antiquarian makes his copy. This does not mean, unfortunately, that the facts of the document are true or that they are correctly interpreted, but it does mean that the antiquarian has probably reported it accurately in the main. Rather than dismiss such evidence the scholar should attempt to ascertain whether there is any truth in the statements despite their possible contradictions. As we have seen David Rogers' statements about the number of pageants in the play cycle are not so much inaccuracies as a confusion of two different phenomena from two different sources. Similarly historical reconstructions of the development of the cycle plays are often inaccurate because scholars depend on antiquarians' dates; it is possible for the date to be wrong but for the event associated with it to have happened nonetheless. These antiquarian records, therefore, may seem confused and contradictory, but they may be able to tell us something about Chester's early history.

Dating

Exact dates of performance are rarely given in the documents. Civic, ecclesiastical, and judicial records tend to be dated by the commencement of the proceedings, rather than by the actual event. In some cases the event can have occurred years before the court case, as happened in 1578 at Nantwich, when the contested event (the sale of a bear cub) took place fourteen years before the document concerning it. A single event can appear in a succession of legal documents over more than one year. Where it is clear that these are in fact the same event, only the earliest document has been transcribed, and subsequent court appearances recorded in an endnote or in Appendix 6.

Dating of personal accounts is also at times general rather than specific (eg, 'wylmeslowe wak*es*,' p 829). Inventories are dated by when the inventory was taken, if the information is given, otherwise by probate date.

Regnal years, saints' days, and dates of moveable feasts have all been converted to modern usage. For reference purposes dates of all fixed festivals mentioned in the Records are listed in Appendix 7; dates of moveable feasts are identified in the footnotes. Documents from before 1642 tended to use the old style year (beginning 25 March, the feast of the Annunciation). Therefore records dated 1 January–24 March 1583 would be dated 1 January–24 March 1584 according to modern usage. To avoid confusion dates which fall between 1 January and 24 March show both the original and modern date by means of a slash. For example Henry Bradshaw's payment to a musician at Stockport, which he dates 26 January 1637, is given as 1637/8.

The dating of the Chester entries warrants particular attention since the system adopted in these volumes is different from that adopted in *Chester* (1979). Chester's companies presented their annual accounts on different accounting days, some fixed but others on moveable feasts. *Chester* (1979) employed a system of double-dating which began after Midsummer and ended at Midsummer in the following year – in effect, from just after the Midsummer Show in one year to the end of the Midsummer Show the following year. The dating for the Chester records adopted in these volumes runs from October to October, corresponding to the date of the election of the mayor on the Friday after the feast of St Denys or Dionysius (9 October). As is now standard REED practice entries are assigned to the civic year in which the event occurred, regardless of the accounting date of the company or organization involved. Should the accounting year date of the company or parish differ from the one under which the entry appears in REED, that accounting year date, together with the day and/or month, appears in a sub-heading. The fiscal years of Chester's companies whose accounts are extracted here are as follows:

Beer-Brewers' Company	23 November–23 November
Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Company	20 November–20 November, and later, 13 January–13 January
Drawers of Dee	late June/early July–late June/early July
Innkeepers' Company	1 August–1 August
Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Company	11 November –11 November
Glovers' Company	5 January–5 January
Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company	first Friday after May Day to same
Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company	25 March–25 March
Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Company	18 October–18 October
Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Company	Saturday or Sunday after St Peter's Day to same, and later, 29 June–29 June

In some cases where an expense is not specifically dated, context or internal reference may indicate a specific point in the year. In such cases the item is placed under the appropriate year heading and an endnote explains the reason for the dating. Members' dinners celebrating their admission to the status of freemen which are not specifically dated can sometimes be assigned a terminus a quo by the date of their admission given in the freemen's rolls, although specific dates for admission are not always given in the rolls. In those cases, too, the relevant information appears in an endnote. Where an event cannot be dated precisely an endnote will consider the possibility that it may belong to a different year from that assigned to it in this collection.

In the case of the Mayors Lists the date assigned to the entry is that assigned in the manuscript. Within the lists, however, there are two distinct methods of dating mayoral terms: the smaller group, made up of BL: Harley MSS 1046, 2057, and 2105, and JRL: English MS 202, places the mayor's name under the year in which the majority of his term was served, while the remainder list the mayor's name under the year of his accession. The mayors were elected on the Friday after the feast of St Denys (9 October) and their terms ran from the fall of one year to the fall of the next.[5] Since some of the antiquarians and some modern scholars have not observed this distinction in the dating of terms, errors have crept into our histories. For example David Rogers says that the last performance of the plays occurred in 1574 rather than 1575 because that is the date of John Savage's term in his List of Mayors. Similarly Harold C. Gardiner, in 1946, postulated twice as many performances of the plays as there actually were because he conflated Additional MS 29777 (ML 10), which uses one dating method, with Chambers' list of dates from other sources.[6]

Since the antiquarians used two different methods of dating terms and since they tended to say that an event occurred in the year placed beside the mayor's name, it is possible for there to be errors in the dating of specific incidents. Many of these errors are easily resolved by rationalizing the two dating methods into a single chronology and then adjusting the chronology according to external evidence. This technique is sufficient to resolve almost all the discrepancies in the entries after the middle of the sixteenth century.

The discrepancies up to that time cannot always be so easily resolved because the chronology of the mayors before the sixteenth century is not absolutely certain and because external evidence is often lacking; consequently there is the problem of deciding whether a mayor's name has been assigned to the right year, and then whether an event associated with his name belongs to his term, or whether it drifted into his term as a result of the different methods of dating terms, or whether it belongs to that year but not that mayor. For example most lists associate the invention of the Midsummer Show and a performance of a play before Prince Arthur with the term of Richard Goodman and date both events to 1498. Some lists place Goodman's term in 1497–8 and others in 1498–9, the latter of which is correct. Almost universally however the visit of Arthur is said to have occurred on 4 August 1498 or on 4 August 14 Henry VII (ie, 1499). The first of these dates is clearly impossible since Goodman did not become mayor until October 1498; therefore the visit either did not occur during his term or it should be dated to 4 August 1499.

Fortunately events seem to have been associated with a mayor's name rather than a date; therefore we have followed the general rule of dating an entry according to the mayor's known term rather than according to the MS date where these disagree. This procedure is defensible because in those cases where there is external evidence, there is almost a perfect correlation between events and the mayors' names, whereas there are often errors in dating the mayors' terms. In addition we have retained the association between a mayor and an event assigned to him even when this means moving the event to a different point in the chronology. The reader, therefore, should be aware that the dates of events for which there is no external evidence could be inaccurate and should consult the notes in order to determine if the manuscripts give a different date or mayor than the one assigned by the editors.

Documents of uncertain date have been assigned to a likely date or date range, and the problem is discussed in the endnotes. Reminiscences and allusions in antiquarian and printed sources are normally assigned to the year of the event, when possible, and to the year of publication, when not. The dates assigned in the Chester documents to the versions of Rogers' Breviary relate to the date of the particular version.

Other Editorial Conventions

Manuscript punctuation has been retained, except that excessive scribal pointing is usually ignored. The layout of the documents generally follows that of the manuscripts in the placement of headings, marginalia, and columns, except for lineation in prose texts and the shifting of right marginalia in the manuscripts to the left margin in the transcription where it has been marked by the symbol ®. Virgules are indicated as / and //. Most manuscript braces and all line fillers have been overlooked. Capitulum marks and other marginal marks in financial accounts and inventories have for the most part not been transcribed. In general dashes between numbers in columns of sums (eg, 0 3 6) are not preserved. No hyphenation is introduced into the Records text that is not in the original sources.

The spelling of the original has been preserved, along with the capitalization. The letters ‘ff’ have been retained for ‘F’; the standard and elongated forms of ‘I’ are uniformly transcribed as ‘I’ except where clearly distinguished as a ‘J’ in later and printed documents. Ornamental capitals and display letters have been transcribed as ordinary letters but are noted. Arabic ‘1’ has been substituted for ‘i’ in numbers other than sums. Abbreviated words have been expanded with italics to indicate letters supplied by the editor. Where manuscripts yield insufficient evidence to judge individual scribal habits, abbreviations are expanded to classical forms in Latin and modern British forms in English. First names have been expanded wherever possible. Italics and other special typefaces in printed sources are not observed; they are silently printed as roman in transcriptions within the Records.

Abbreviations that are easily understood today (‘li.,’ ‘s.,’ ‘d.,’ ‘ob.’ (for half-pence), ‘q*u*a.’ (for farthing), ‘viz.,’ and ‘etc’ or ‘&c’), and abbreviations cumbersome to expand, including those typical for weights and measures (‘lb.’ for ‘pound’ and ‘di.’ for ‘half’) are retained. By convention we print a stop (.) after the standard abbreviations for currency: ‘li.,’ ‘s.,’ ‘d.,’ ‘ob.,’ q*u*a.’ ‘Mr’ and ‘Dr’ are expanded only when used as nouns or when occurring before another title (eg, M*aste*r Mayor); they are left unexpanded when introducing a proper name. ‘Xp-’ and ‘xp-’ are expanded as ‘Chr*ist*-’ and ‘chr*ist*-.’ The sign ϒ has been expanded ‘*es*,’ ‘*ys*,’ or ‘*is*’ according to scribal practice, except when it follows an ‘e’: in this case it is expanded as ‘*s*.’

Where single minims are too many or too few by obvious scribal error, an editorially corrected version is supplied in the text and the textual oddity is footnoted. Otiose flourishes such as the barred ‘ell’ are ignored. Superscript letters are lowered to the line except when used with numerals. Letters or words obliterated, damaged, or lost are indicated by dots within diamond brackets, with the number of dots representing the number of lost letters (ie, one dot for one letter, two dots for two, and three dots for three or more lost or illegible letters). See p 2 for additional symbols and abbreviations used in this collection.

Where an unfoliated manuscript has a small number of leaves or membranes, these have been counted by hand and the supplied numbers placed in square brackets. The Congleton Borough Account Book, which was unfoliated, was foliated by one of the editors with the permission of the Congleton town clerk.

Notes

Historical Background

1 VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 1–4.

2 Denise Kenyon, 'The Environmental Background,' in J. McN. Dodgson, *The Place-Names of Cheshire*, pt 5.2, Alexander R. Rumble (ed), English Place-Name Society, vol 74 (Nottingham, 1997), 377.

3 Ian B. Terrett, 'The Domesday Woodland of Cheshire,' *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* 100 (1948), 1–7; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 26–8.

4 VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, p 30; and Beck, *Tudor Cheshire*, pp 24–6.

5 Crump, 'Saltways from the Cheshire Wiches,' pp 84–112; and Higham, *Origins*, pp 25–6, 47–9.

6 VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 336–7; and A.D.M. Phillips and C.B. Phillips, *A New Historical Atlas of Cheshire* (Chester, 2002), 28–31.

7 Dorothy Sylvester, 'The Manor in the Cheshire Landscape,' *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society* 70 (1960), 1–15.

8 Edward Miller (ed), *The Agrarian History of England and Wales*, vol 3, *1348–1500* (Cambridge, 1991), 239–40.

9 Morrill, *Cheshire 1630–1660*, p 5.

10 Phillips and Phillips, *Atlas*, p 56.

11 *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the Years 1535–1543*, Lucy Toulmin Smith (ed), vol 5 (London, 1908; rpt Carbondale, 1964), 6.

12 King, *Vale-Royall*, p 20.

13 Higham, *A Frontier Landscape*, pp 202–7.

14 On Cheshire see Brian Paul Hindle, 'The Road Network of Medieval England and Wales,' *Journal of Historical Geography* 2 (1976), 207–21; Phillips and Phillips, *Atlas*, pp 18–19; and Brian Paul Hindle, 'Roads and Tracks,' *The English Medieval Landscape*, Leonard Cantor (ed) (London, 1982), 193–204.

15 Christopher Taylor, *Roads and Tracks of Britain* (London, Toronto, and Melbourne, 1979), 193–4.

16 Thompson, *Roman Cheshire*, pp 20–3.

17 *The Map of Great Britain Circa A.D. 1360 Known as the Gough Map* (Oxford and

London, 1958); see also the accompanying pamphlet, E.J.S. Parsons, *The Map of Great Britain Circa A.D. 1360 Known as the Gough Map: An Introduction to the Facsimile, With The Roads of the Gough Map by Sir Frank Stenton* (Oxford and London, 1958), 16.

18 J. McN. Dodgson, 'The English Arrival in Cheshire,' *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* 119 (1967), 23–37.

19 VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 237–48; Higham, *Origins*, pp 104–14; and J. McN. Dodgson, *The Place-Names of Cheshire*, pt 1, English Place-Name Society, vol 44 (Cambridge, 1970), 31–2.

20 Gillian Fellows-Jensen, 'Scandinavian Settlement in the Isle of Man and North-West England: the Place-Name Evidence,' *The Viking Age in the Isle of Man*, Christine Fell, Peter Foote, James Graham-Campbell, Robert Thomson (eds) (London, 1983), 48–50; Higham, *Origins*, pp 104–14; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 254–9.

21 VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 260–3.

22 Initially there were seven baronies; that of Stockport seems to have been added in the mid-twelfth century. See VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, p 306.

23 VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, p 293; vol 2, pp 1–8.

24 Chester, Dudestan, Riseton, Wilaveston (Willaston), Roelau, Bochelau (Bucklow), Tunendune, Hamestan, Mildestvic (Middlewich), Warmundestrou, Exestan, and Atiscros. See VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, pp 252, 263–8.

25 Initially William gave Cheshire to the Fleming Gherbod, probably *c* 1070, but when Gherbod returned to Flanders he gave it to Hugh, possibly *c* 1077. See VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, p 1. B.M.C. Husain notes that it is customary to regard Hugh Lupus and not Gherbod as the first earl, but *The Complete Peerage* lists Gherbod as the first earl (Husain, *Cheshire under the Norman Earls*, list following p 142).

26 The seven baronies were Dunham Massey, Halton, Kinderton, Malpas, Mold, Nantwich, and Shipbrook. See VCH: *Chester*, vol 1, p 306.

27 VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, pp 167–87; and Husain, *Cheshire under the Norman Earls*, pp 54–74.

28 Clayton, *County Palatine of Chester*, p 48; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, p 5.

29 Husain, *Cheshire under the Norman Earls*, pp 95–7; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, pp 6, 9.

30 P.H.W. Booth, *The Financial Administration of the Lordship and County of Chester, 1272–1377*, Chetham Society, 3rd ser, vol 8 (Manchester, 1981), 50–2; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, p 18.

31 Booth, *Financial Administration*, p 6. See also VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, p 8. Tim Thornton proposes a higher degree of autonomy in *Cheshire and the Tudor State*, pp 1–15.

32 For a brief account of the Pilgrimage of Grace and its relation to the Council of the North, see R.R. Reid, *The King's Council in the North* (London, 1921), 120–44. See also F.W. Brooks, *The Council of the North* (London, 1966), 16.

33 Edward Stanley was lord lieutenant for Lancashire in 1551 and 1552 and for Lancashire and Cheshire from 1553. See Barry Coward, *The Stanleys, Lords Stanley and the Earls of Derby: The Origins, Wealth and Power of a Landowning Family*, Chetham Society, 3rd ser, vol 30 (Manchester, 1983), 153.

34 See further S.J. Bindoff, *The House of Commons 1509–1558*, The History of Parliament,

vol 1 (London, 1982), 43–5; VCH: *Chester*, vol 2, p 98; Thornton, *Cheshire and the Tudor State*, pp 132–7.

35 Brooks, *The Council of the North*, pp 16–17.

36 Morrill, *Cheshire 1630–1660*, p 9.

37 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 1–11; vol 5, pt 1, pp 6–7; and Burne, *Chester Cathedral*, p 1.

38 See Wark, *Elizabethan Recusancy in Cheshire*, pp 9–11.

39 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 20–4.

40 Richardson, *Puritanism in North-West England*, pp 63–70. On Henry Hardware see Robert Tittler, *Townspeople and Nation: English Urban Experiences, 1540–1640* (Stanford, 2001), 140–55.

41 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 3–5; and Phillips and Phillips, *Atlas*, p 12.

42 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 124, 128–32, 146–56, 171–8; and Beck, *Tudor Cheshire*, pp 77–95.

43 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 132–46. On the abbey as a landowner, see Higham, *Frontier Landscape*, pp 204–6. On the Midsummer fair, see Burne's *The Monks of Chester*, pp 41–3, 145; Burne's book tells the story of St Werburgh's Abbey largely through the activities of the abbots, pp 4–158.

44 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 156–8, 163–4.

45 Burne, *Chester Cathedral*, pp 1, 24–6; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 12–13, 188–90.

46 Baldwin, *Paying the Piper*, pp 56–61.

47 At Acton (1558, refounded 1662), Audlem (by mid-16th c.), Bunbury (by 1573?; 1595), Chester (1541), West Kirby (by 1611?; 1636), Knutsford (by 1536?; by 1549), Lymm (by 1592), Macclesfield (1502, refounded 1552), Malpas (1528), Nantwich (1538–72), Stockport (1488), Wallasey (before 1595?; 1619), Witton, near Northwich (1557). Where the first date is queried the evidence is a passing reference to a master the status of whose school is not indicated. The second date is a known foundation.

48 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 223–54.

49 See Richardson, *Puritanism in North-West England*, pp 128–30.

50 On fairs, see also *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516* on the web site of the Centre for Metropolitan History, a research centre of the Institute of Historical Research (http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gazweb2.html).

51 M.J. Bennett, *Community, Class and Careerism*, pp 13, 61.

52 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 9–15; Thompson, *Roman Cheshire*, pp 24–53; and Dodgson, *Place-Names*, pt 5.1, pp 5–7.

53 Higham, *Origins*, p 85.

54 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 16–24; J.D. Bu'lock, *Pre-Conquest Cheshire, 383–1066*, A History of Cheshire, vol 3 (Chester, 1972), 58–65.

55 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 24–30. A convenient short account of the diocese is provided by Joyce M. Horn's introduction to her revision of John le Neve's *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541–1857*, vol 10, *Coventry and Lichfield Diocese*, Joyce M. Horn (comp) (London, 2003), vii–ix; see also VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 2, pp 71–3.

56 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 38–44, 59–62.

57 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 2, pp 305–14.

58 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 27, 38–40, 43.

59 Geoffrey W. Place, *The Rise and Fall of Parkgate Passenger Post for Ireland 1686–1825*, Chetham Society, 3rd ser, vol 39 (Manchester, 1994), 34. See also K.P. Wilson, 'The Port of Chester in the Fifteenth Century,' *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* 117 (1965), 1–15; and Beck, *Tudor Cheshire*, pp 7–11.

60 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, p 72.

61 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 90–7.

62 VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 86–7.

63 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, pp 35–7; and Peter Clark and Jean Hosking, *Population Estimates of English Small Towns 1550–1851* (Leicester, rev ed 1993), 13. The unit covered is the parish, and the population estimate is based on a ratio of 5.05 persons per household. The total here given is augmented by including the households in 'Engleton,' which is believed by Alan Dyer and D.M. Palliser to be an error for 'Congleton.' Dyer and Palliser do not convert household numbers into population estimates. See Alan Dyer and D.M. Palliser (eds), *The Diocesan Population Returns for 1563 and 1603* (Oxford, 2005), 78–83.

64 *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, of the Reign of James I, 1623–1625*, Mary Anne Everett Green (ed) (London, 1859), 444.

65 The number of families is taken from Tonkinson, *Macclesfield*, p 81; the 1536 estimate is from Clark and Hosking, *Population Estimates*, p 13.

66 Davies, *History of Macclesfield*, pp 8–10, 39, 43–4, 49, 64.

67 See Tonkinson, *Macclesfield*, pp 88–9, for a list of trades based on occupational surnames; see also Hewitt, *Cheshire under the Three Edwards*, p 70.

68 Davies, *History of Macclesfield*, pp 299, 304; and VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 237–8.

69 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 745.

70 For an account of the three towns and the salt-production process in the sixteenth century, see *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the Years 1535–1543*, Lucy Toulmin Smith (ed), vol 4 (London, 1908; rpt Carbondale, 1964), 4. See also Philip Morgan (ed), *Domesday Book*, vol 26, *Cheshire* (Chichester, 1978), 27–S3, S1–S2.

71 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 245–7.

72 Higham, *Origins*, pp 48–9.

73 Higham, *Frontier Landscape*, p 180.

74 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 185.

75 King, *Vale-Royall*, p 42.

76 W.H. Chaloner, 'Salt in Cheshire, 1600–1870,' *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society* 71 (1961), 61–2.

77 Clark and Hosking, *Population Estimates*, p 13; Hall, *History*; and Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, pp 421, 428–30.

78 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 422.

79 Hall, *History*, pp 176–7.

80 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 243–4.

81 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, pp 788–92.

82 Clark and Hosking, *Population Estimates*, p 13.
83 VCH: *Chester*, vol 3, pp 249–50.
84 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, pp 317, 320–2; and Hinde, *A Faithfull Remonstrance*, pp 89–90 on Tarvin Wakes, p 131 on the minstrels' licences of the Duttons.
85 Ormerod, *History*, vol 1, pp 642–4 (quoting Leycester, *Historical Antiquities*, vol 2, pt 4, pp 248 ff), 650; see also Morgan (ed), *Domesday Book*, 9/22, 24/2, 26/2.
86 For the Legh of Lyme pedigree, see Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, pp 676–8.
87 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, pp 671 and 673, n d; see also Nikolaus Pevsner and Edward Hubbard, *Cheshire*, The Buildings of England (London, 1971; rpt 1998), 259–63.
88 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 674.

Drama, Music, and Popular Customs

1 See Clopper, 'History,' pp 219–20; and Lumiansky and Mills, *Essays and Documents*, pp 168–81.
2 That is, Cordwainers and Shoemakers (1550), Smiths, Cutlers, and Plumbers (1554, 1561, 1567, 1568, 1572, 1575), Painters, Glaziers, Embroiderers, and Stationers (1568, 1572, 1575), and Coopers (1572, 1575).
3 Note the lengthier description near the end of CCALS: DCC 19; see Records, p 422.
4 Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, p 57. Salter claims that Holme, the transcriber of the accounts, added the note about the crier; however, since the entire sequence of accounts is in Holme's hand, it is impossible to attribute the note to him. There are, however, a number of records in the guild accounts that indicate the crier went in the procession.
5 Salter, 'Banns,' pp 3–4; Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, pp 58–60; and Clopper, 'History,' pp 222–3.
6 For lists of locations and properties, see Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 2, pp 101, 222, 277.
7 See also the stage directions in the plays at 4.1; 5.95, 199; 8.48, 112; 14.224; and the dialogue at 6.282 and 10.274 in Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, pp 56, 83, 87, 108, 158, 161, 195, 260.
8 See play 8.101–12 and stage direction in Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, pp 160–1.
9 Goodman's letter of 11 June refers to the list, but a further letter to the archbishop, undated, reporting that the performance had taken place, intervenes before the list in the letterbook.
10 See also Clopper, 'Rogers' Description.'
11 Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, pp 37–42. Some of the Mayors Lists make the Higden identification, but it is uncertain when the name was added. For example, Mayors List 6 (p 44) is an Aldersey List from 1594; Aldersey did not include unsubstantiated notices in his list, so the note must have been added later. Randle Holme inserted the name in some of the MSS he copied. Other documents copied by Holme show such insertions. See, for example, the addition made at the beginning of the early list of plays and

the Banns in Harley MS 2150, f 85v (pp 79, 81). William Newhall's proclamation of 1531–2 says they were devised by Sir Henry Francis, a monk of the monastery (see p 72 and endnote).

12 See further p 442, CCALS: DCC 19, ff 112v–13: 'the whtson playes made by a monke of Chester Abbay ... And the said Rondoll the author in the *pro*louge before his booke of the whitson playes doth shew' (the parts each company played). If the '*pro*louge before his booke of the whitson playes' is the Banns, the statement is illogical since the 'author' is unlikely to refer to himself this way.

13 CCALS: ZCX 3, f 18v; CCALS: DCC 19, f 39v; BL: Harley MS 1948, f 64; Liverpool: Liverpool University Library MS 23.5, f 26; and BL: Additional MS 9442, f 295, respectively.

14 See F.M. Salter, 'The "Trial and Flagellation": A New Manuscript,' in Greg and Salter (eds), *The 'Trial & Flagellation,'* pp 6–13, for a discussion of the possible amalgamation and division of the play.

15 Lumiansky and Mills, in their edition of *The Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, number 'The Trial and Flagellation' and 'The Passion' 16 and 16A, respectively.

16 Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, pp 64–72.

17 Wickham, *Early English Stages*, pp 171–4.

18 Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, p 372.

19 Hugh Gillam was admitted to the freedom of the city in 1537 and Richard Cally in 1544. See Bennett (ed), *The Rolls of the Freemen*, pp 21, 24. In 1575 the guild 'spend apon Thomas marser to get him to pleay' (p 163), which may suggest that he was a player of special talent brought in from outside the guild.

20 Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, pp 78–9.

21 For the corresponding section in Lumiansky and Mills (eds), see play 16A, ll.330–407, *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, pp 318–21.

22 Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, p 20.

23 Sixteenth-century treasurers' accounts up to the end of the Whitsun Plays exist for 1554–5, 1556–7, 1558–9, 1563–4, 1564–5, 1568–9, 1571–2, and 1574–5.

24 See Lawrence M. Clopper, '*The Chester Plays*: Frequency of Performance,' *Theatre Survey* 14 (1973), 46–58. The accounting year for city treasurers' accounts began in November.

25 Alan H. Nelson, 'Six-wheeled Carts: An Underview,' *Technology and Culture* 13 (1972), 415–16. For a contrasting view see Marshall, 'The Manner of These Playes,' pp 24–6.

26 Rogers' assertion seems to have been generally true for post-Reformation performances, for the guild accounts do not show expenditure on both the Midsummer Show and the Whitsun Plays, with the exception of those for 1568, in any of the years in which we know the plays were performed. See the Smiths' Midsummer expenses for 1568 and for the plays on pp 125–6.

27 See, for example, the stage directions at 5.96 and 199, 6.468, and 8.112 in Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, pp 83, 87, 115, 161.

28 The items listed in this paragraph are not in this edition but may be found in Clopper (ed), *Chester*, pp 30–1, 44–7, 52, 55, 58–9, 61–5, 69, 73.

29 On the Easter sepulchre see Lawrence M. Clopper, *Drama, Play and Game: English Festive*

Culture in the Medieval and Early Modern Period (Chicago and London, 2001), 123–4; for a description of the Palm Sunday procession, especially the Sarum rite, see John Walton Tyrer, *Historical Survey of Holy Week: Its Services and Ceremonial*, Alcuin Club Collections 29 (Oxford and London, 1932), 56–60.

30 See Head, *Congleton Past and Present*, p 66.

31 The leave-lookers were responsible for collecting the revenues due the city from trade, in particular the fees due from non-freemen for being allowed to trade within the city.

32 The circumstances of Coman's discovery were reported in his article, 'The Congleton Accounts.' The article reprints the transcriptions of the relevant entries by W.H.T. in the J.P. Earwaker collection in the CCALS, with full annotations and discussion.

33 See further the Events pages on Cheshire on the REED *Patrons and Performances Web Site*, http://link.library.utoronto.ca/reed/.

34 J.J. Anderson (ed), *Newcastle upon Tyne*, REED (Toronto, 1982), 79; and J. Alan B. Somerset (ed), *Shropshire*, REED, vol 1 (Toronto and London, 1994), 248.

35 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 36. See also Historical Background, p xxvii.

36 R.M. Montgomery (ed), 'Some Early Deeds relating to Land on the North Side of Eastgate Street, Chester,' *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 22 (1918), 135–6.

37 R.V.H. Burne, *Chester Cathedral: From Its Founding by Henry VIII to the Accession of Queen Victoria* (London, 1958), 62.

38 See further the Venues pages for Chester Common Hall on the REED *Patrons and Performances Web Site*, http://link.library.utoronto.ca/reed/.

39 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 38.

40 F.H. Thompson, *Roman Cheshire*, A History of Cheshire, vol 2 (Chester, 1965), 40–2. The account, based on the 1969 excavation, is being superseded by the present (2004–5) excavations.

41 *Chesters Triumph in Honor of her Prince* (London, 1610; *STC*: 5118), A3.

42 See also Baldwin, *Paying the Piper*, pp 14–20.

43 Rastall, 'The Minstrel Court in Medieval England,' pp 96–105.

44 For guild account records for the Whitsun performances, see pp 91–3, 95–6, 106–8, 117–18, 122–6, 139–42, 164–8. On the possible function of minstrels in the Smiths' 'Shewe,' see Richard Rastall, 'Music in the Cycle,' in Lumiansky and Mills, *Essays and Documents*, pp 136–7.

45 For the Drapers, see stage directions after ll.112, 280, 384, 424, 616, and note preceding first stage heading in MS B, in Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, pp 17, 25, 29, 31, 38. For the Vintners, see stage direction after l.144, p 162.

46 See Baldwin, *Paying the Piper*, pp 187–91.

47 CCALS: ZAB/2, f 175v, documents the assembly's approval of new regulations in 1672. See Mills, *Recycling the Cycle*, p 63.

48 R.W. Ingram (ed), *Coventry*, REED (Toronto and London, 1981), 302.

49 Somerset (ed), *Shropshire*, vol 1, p 78; and George (ed), *Lancashire*, p 170.

50 Ingram (ed), *Coventry*, p 417.

51 BL: Harley MS 2095, f 146v; see also Fenella Crowe Bazin, 'Music in the Isle of Man up to 1896,' PhD thesis (Liverpool University, 1995), 49.

52 See pp 118, 126, for entries from the Smiths' accounts, and for a discussion of the musical expertise required by the role, see Rastall, 'Music in the Cycle,' p 135. See also the entry for Robert White in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians.*

53 CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3, pp 201, 333.

54 Unless otherwise specified most of the materials in this section are from Clopper (ed), *Chester*, pp xxx–xxxvi, li–lx. David Mills has two chapters relevant to this first sub-section, 'A Spectrum of Ceremonial and Entertainment' and 'The Midsummer Celebrations,' in *Recycling the Cycle*, pp 57–78, 79–100, respectively.

55 Congleton spent 14s 6d on a gown for a lord of misrule in 1588–9, but since the expenditure fell in the March-June quarter it is unlikely that this related to Christmas activities (p 617).

56 Alan J. Fletcher, *Drama, Performance and Polity in Pre-Cromwellian Ireland* (Toronto, 2000), 95 and 367–8, n 144.

57 Fletcher, *Drama*, pp 130 and 378, n 17.

58 See n 41 above.

59 The text is included in the Early English Books Online web site. It can also be found in Thomas Corser (ed), *Chester's Triumph in honor of her Prince. As it was performed upon S.Georges Day 1610 in the for said Citie*, Chetham Society, ser 1, vol 3 (Manchester, 1844). See also Mills, *Recycling the Cycle*, pp 136–8.

60 CCALS: DST/B 37 (Tabley Liber N), f 88.

61 CCALS: CH/32, 1506.

62 BL: Harley MS 1046, f 161v. The entry is dated 1488 for 1488–9. The entry also appears in Bodl.: MS. Rawlinson B. 282, f 76, and in BL: Harley MS 1944, f 76v, where it is listed for the year 1490–1. The early part of Harley MS 1046 seems to be off by a year, so the Harley MS 1944 date may be more accurate. Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, p 50, accepts the earlier date.

63 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 677.

64 George (ed), *Lancashire*, pp 166–7.

65 Newton, *House of Lyme*, p 65.

66 CCALS: P 21/3607/1/1, f 22; and Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, p 597.

67 Somerset (ed), *Shropshire*, vol 1, p 187; vol 2, pp 698, 700.

68 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, p 769; vol 3, p 522.

69 George (ed), *Lancashire*, p 166.

70 Ingram (ed), *Coventry*, p 336. See the Patrons pages on the REED *Patrons and Performances Web Site*, http://link.library.utoronto.ca/reed/, for possible identities for Mr Dutton.

71 George (ed), *Lancashire*, pp 172, 185–6, 188.

72 Somerset (ed), *Shropshire*, vol 1, p 356.

73 *The Chronicle of Jhon Hardyng in Metre, from the First Begynnyng of England, vnto ye Reigne of Edwarde ye Fourth* (London, 1543; *STC* 12766.7); and Mayors List 33, CCALS: DSS 3991/349, pp 3–4. See also Appendix 2, p 874.

74 Mayors List 33, CCALS: DSS 3991/349, p 4.

75 See VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, p 3; for Chester's strategic placement as a regional capital see VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 1, pp 18–19, and Higham, *Origins*, pp 123–4.

76 Mayors List 13, CCALS: ZCR 60/83, f 6v; Mayors List 9, BL: Additional MS 29777, mbs [8, 14]; Mayors List 12, CCALS: ZCR 469/542, f [33v]. The earl of Essex was en route for Ireland, of which he was made lord lieutenant in 1599.

77 Mayors List 33, CCALS: DSS 3991/349, p 19.

78 See also Clopper (ed), *Chester*, pp 138–9, 157–8.

79 Mark C. Pilkinton (ed), *Bristol*, REED (Toronto, 1997), 120; Ingram (ed), *Coventry*, p 302; and Somerset (ed), *Shropshire*, vol 1, pp 204, 206. For a discussion of the possible career of John Seckerston, see Elizabeth Baldwin, 'John Seckerston: the Earl of Derby's Bearward,' *Medieval English Theatre* 20 (1998), 95–103.

80 Somerset (ed), *Shropshire*, vol 1, p 199.

81 George (ed), *Lancashire*, pp 73–4 and p 330, nn.

82 Bodl: MS. Top. Cheshire e. 11, p 35 (1327–77).

83 Ingram (ed), *Coventry*, p 399.

84 See Elizabeth Baldwin, 'Rushbearings and Maygames in the Diocese of Chester before 1642,' in Alexandra F. Johnston and Wim Hüsken (eds), *English Parish Drama*, Ludus: Medieval and Early Renaissance Theatre and Drama 1 (Amsterdam and Atlanta, 1996), 31–40. For Lancashire rush-bearings, see George (ed), *Lancashire*, pp xx, xxii–xxiii, xxvi, l–li, c, 10–11, 18–19, 22–4, 75, 88, 92, 98, 113, 145–6, 213–15, 219, 230, 316–18, 338, 346.

85 Clopper (ed), *Chester*, p 23.

86 See the crown book, TNA: PRO CHES 21/3, f 22v.

87 Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, p 145; and Rastall, 'Music in the Cycle,' in Lumiansky and Mills, *Essays and Documents*, pp 160–1.

88 Mills, *Recycling the Cycle*, pp 98–100.

The Documents

1 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 523. In this and the following notes Ormerod's *History* has been updated or replaced, where possible, by reference to the *ODNB* or P.W. Hasler, *The House of Commons 1558–1603*, The History of Parliament, 3 vols (London, 1981), which are the sources for biographical information where no other documentation is provided. Terms for the mayors and sheriffs of Chester follow VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 2, pp 305–21. Terms for sheriffs of Cheshire follow the Public Record Office's *List of Sheriffs for England and Wales*, Lists and Indexes, vol 9 (London, 1898; rpt New York, 1963).

2 Ormerod, *History*, vol 1, p 715; vol 2, p 341, n.

3 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, p 267, n a.

4 *Dictionary of National Biography*, Leslie Stephen (ed), vol 11 (London, 1887), 734.

5 BL: Additional MS 29780, f 93.

6 The list in the Aldersey memorandum book (ML 15), which should be the most authoritative, makes no mention of the final performance of the plays in 1575.

7 This edition incorporates excerpts from Mayors Lists not previously included in Clopper (ed), *Chester* (1979). Additionally some Mayors Lists from which transcriptions were taken in the previous edition are now being cited only in endnotes and thus are now categorized among Mayors Lists 22–34. As a convenience to readers the Mayors Lists common to both this publication and the 1979 edition are tabled here in their original order of appearance along with the numbers presently assigned to them.

CHESTER (1979)	MANUSCRIPT	IN THIS EDITION
ML 1	BL: Harley MS 1046	ML 1
ML 2	BL: Harley MS 1944	ML 2
ML 3	BL: Harley MS 2057	ML 3
ML 4	BL: Harley MS 2105	ML 4
ML 5	BL: Harley MS 2125, List I	ML 5
ML 6	BL: Harley MS 2125, List II	ML 6
ML 7	BL: Harley MS 2125, List III	ML 24
ML 8	BL: Harley MS 2133, List I	ML 7
ML 9	BL: Additional MS 11335	ML 8
ML 10	BL: Additional MS 29777	ML 9
ML 11	BL: Additional MS 29779	ML 10
ML 12	BL: Additional MS 29780	ML 11
ML 13	BL: Additional MS 39925	ML 26
ML 14	BL: Stowe MS 811	ML 27
ML 15	CCALS: DLT/B 37	ML 16
ML 16	CCALS: P/Cowper [1956]	ML 17
ML 17	'Massey College MS' (now Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library: MSS 05289)	ML 21
ML 18	CCALS: AB/1	ML 28 (now CCALS: ZAB 1)
ML 19	CCALS: 'unnumbered MS'	ML 29 (now CCALS: ZCX 3)
ML 20	BL: Harley MS 1948	ML 22
ML 21	BL: Harley MS 1989	ML 23
ML 22	BL: Harley MS 2133, List II	ML 25
ML 23	Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5	ML 34
ML 24	CCALS: DCC 1	ML 30
ML 25	CCALS: DCC 3	ML 31
ML 26	CCALS: DCC 11	ML 32

8 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, pp 702, 740.

9 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, p 702.

10 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 152.

11 John Le Neve, *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541–1857*, vol 11, *Carlisle, Chester, Durham, Manchester, Ripon, and Sodor and Man Dioceses*, Joyce M. Horn, David M. Smith, and Patrick Mussett (comps) (London, 2004), 33–4, 42.

12 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, p 322.
13 Ormerod, *History*, vol 2, p 386; Hasler, *The House of Commons 1558–1603*, vol 2, pp 194–5.
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57 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 677.
58 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 677.
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68 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 58.
69 Ormerod, *History*, vol 3, p 60.
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73 CCALS catalogue. References are made to DSS 1/4/38 and P 53/1/1–20 for the Cutler correspondence and the burial records.
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Editorial Procedures

1 There is a fuller collation in Clopper (ed), *Chester*, pp 232–54, 320–2.
2 Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, p 37.

3 Salter, *Mediaeval Drama*, p 57; for further discussion of the point see Clopper, 'The Rogers' Description of the Chester Plays,' pp 74–5.

4 The MS designations are the standard reference symbols for the five play MSS; see the introduction to Lumiansky and Mills (eds), *Chester Mystery Cycle*, vol 1, p ix.

5 Apparently the mayors were originally elected on Michaelmas (29 September), but the election moved to the October date by 1320 or no later than 1340. See VCH: *Chester*, vol 5, pt 2, p 307.

6 *Mysteries' End: An Investigation of the Last Days of the Medieval Religious Stage*, Yale Studies in English, vol 103 (New Haven, 1946), 79; and see further Lawrence M. Clopper, '*The Chester Plays*: Frequency of Performance,' *Theatre Survey* 14 (1973), 46–58.

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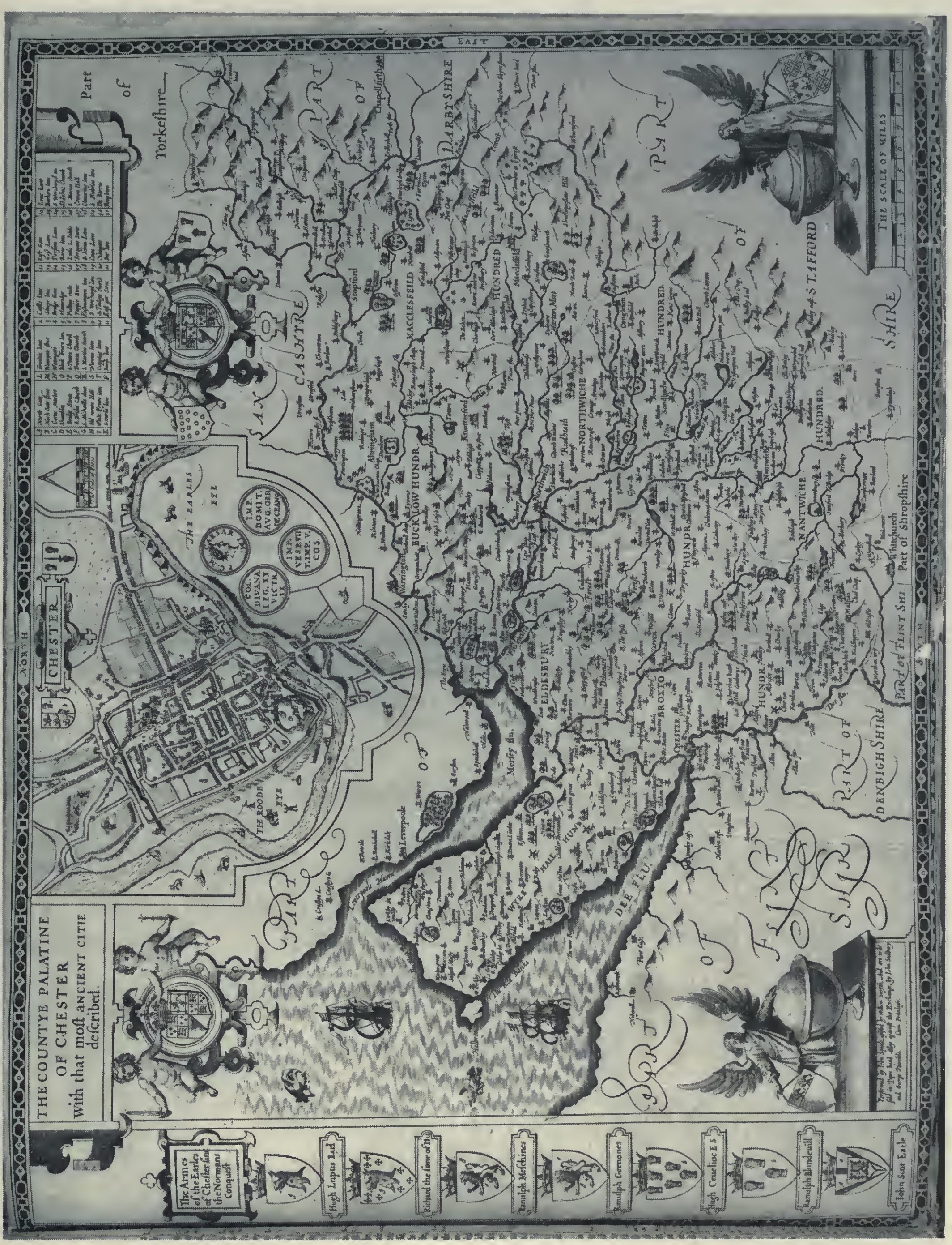
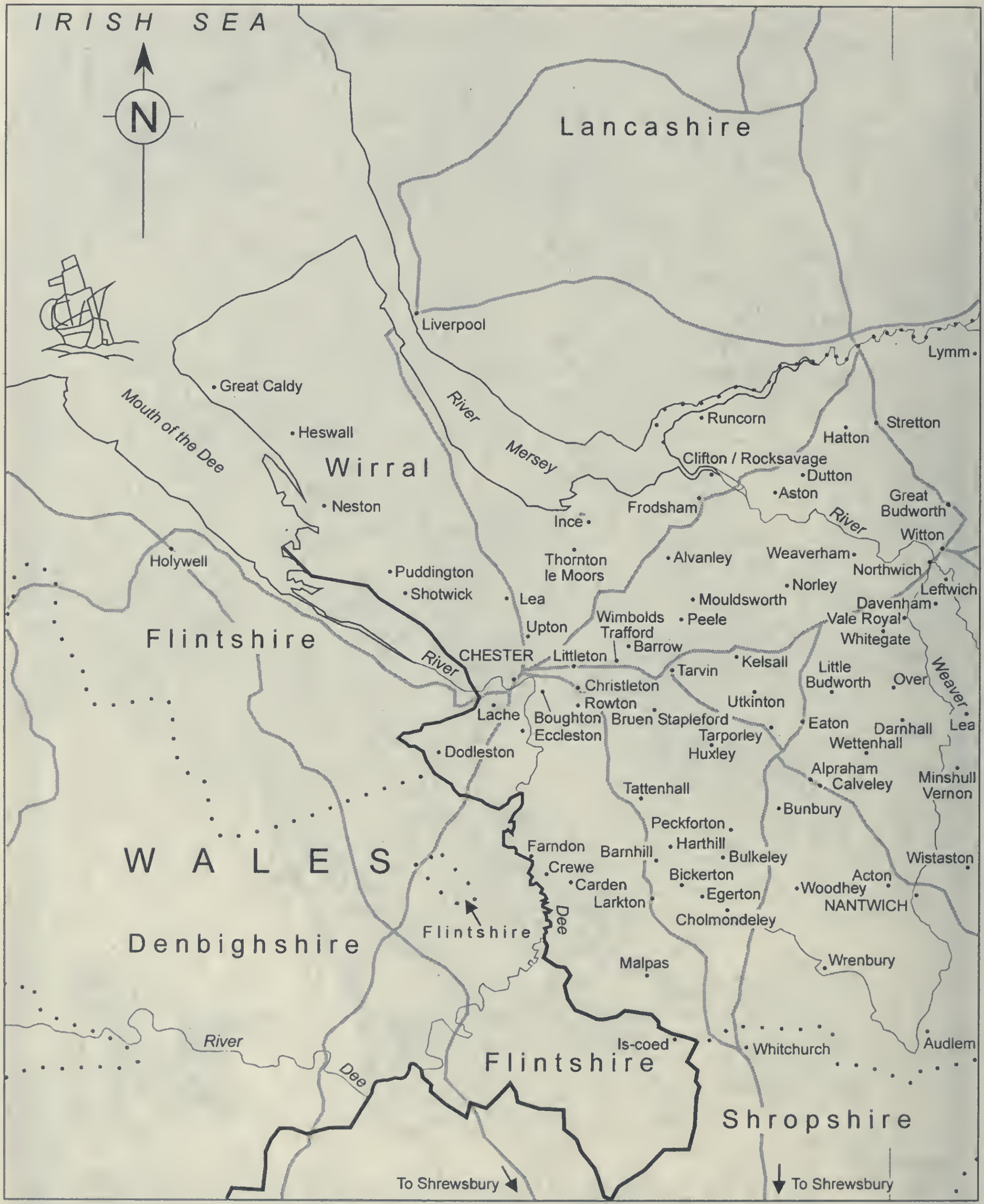
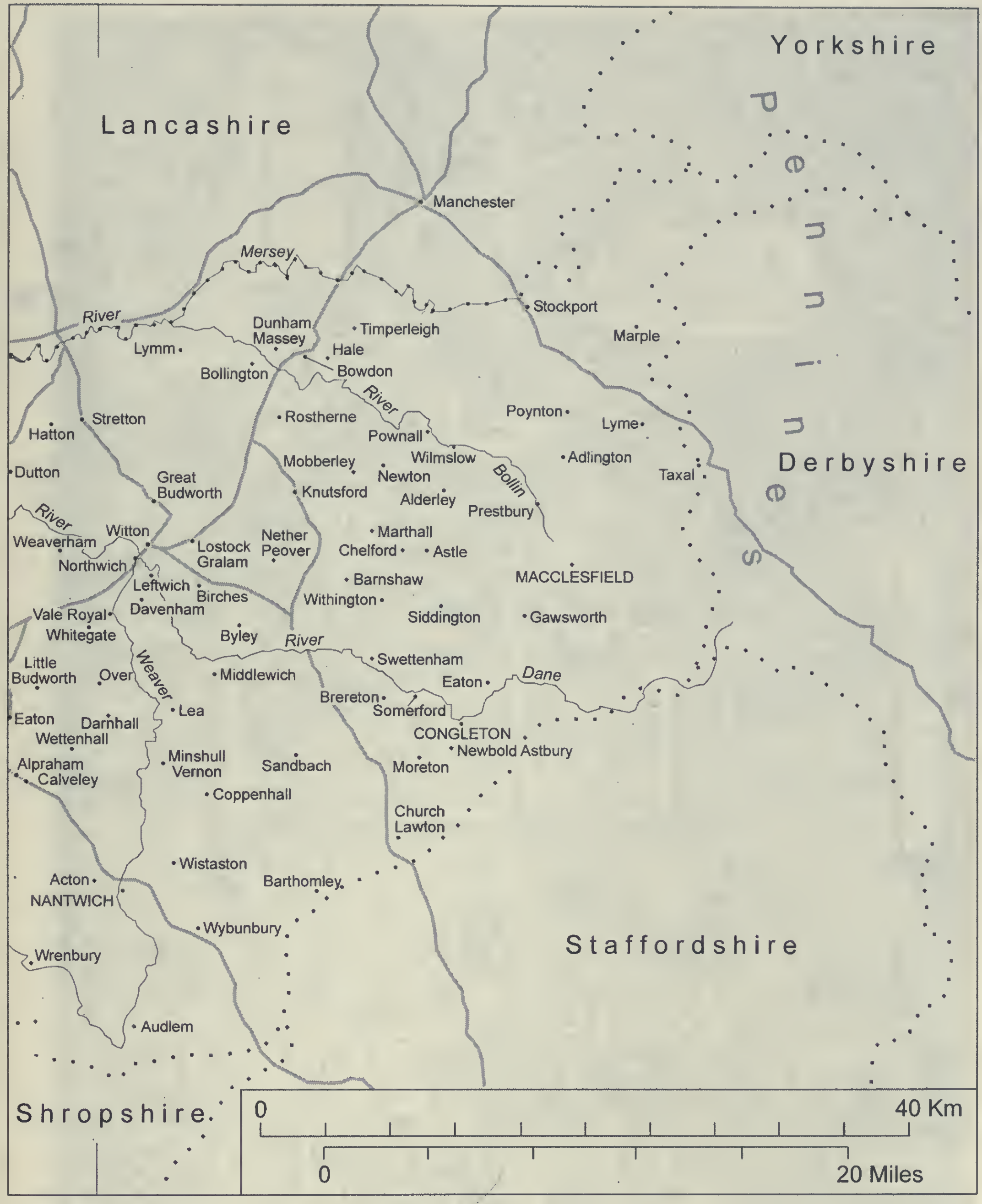
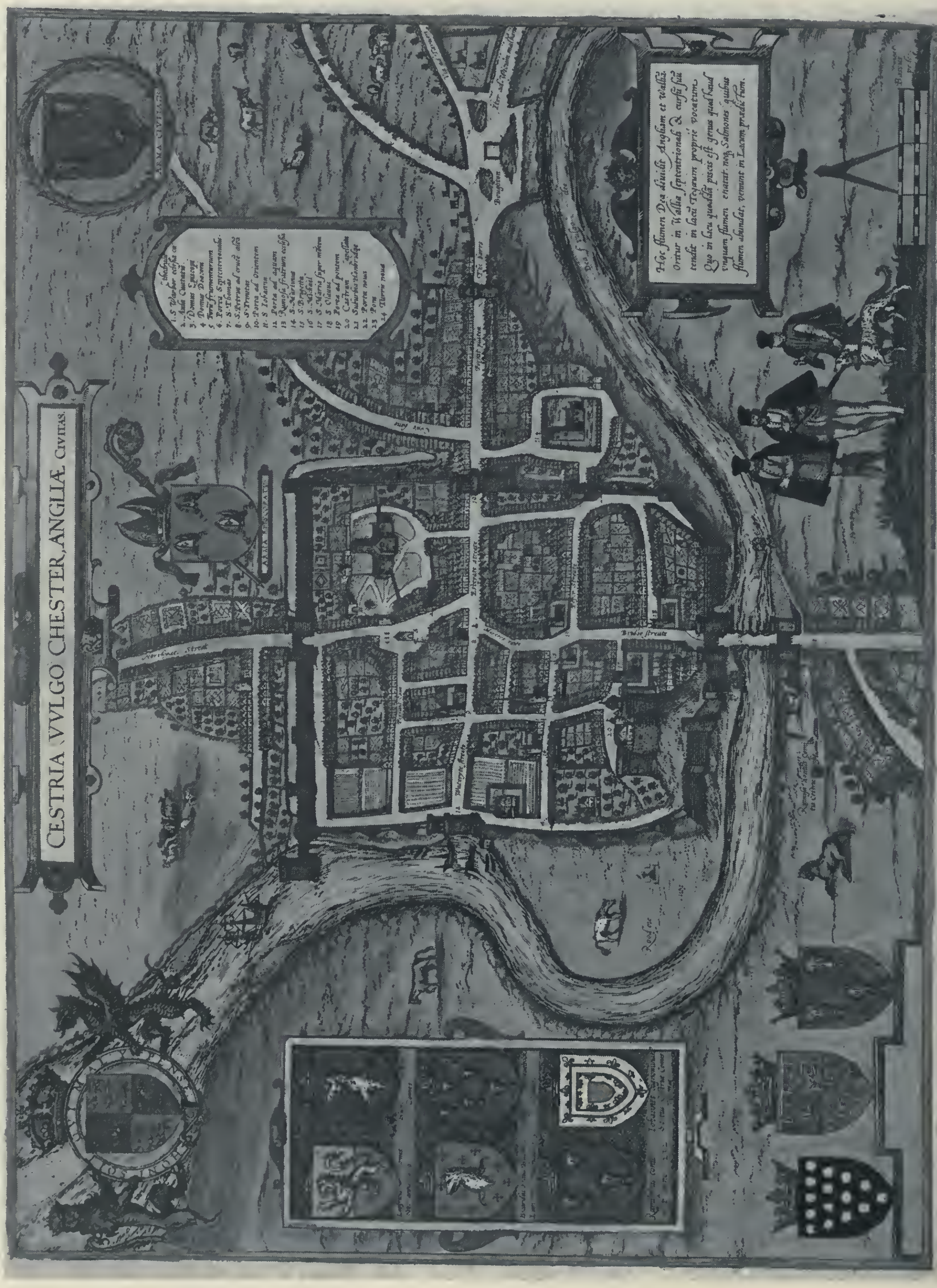

THE COUNTYE PALATINE OF CHESTER with that most ANCIENT CITIE described.
CHESTER
THE EARLES EYE
THE ROODE EYE
IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GER.
IMP. VESPAS. V.
COL. DIVANA LEG. XX VICTR.
Part of Yorkeshire
PART OF DARBYSHIRE
PART OF STAFFORD SHIRE
PART OF LANCASHIRE
PART OF DENBIGH SHIRE
PART OF FLINT SHIRE
Part of Shropshire
Whitchurch
MACCLESFEILD HUNDRED
BUCKLOW HUNDR.
NORTHWICHE HUNDRED
EDDESBURY
BROXTON HUNDR.
NANTWICHE HUNDRED.
WIRALL HUNDR.
Mersey flu.
DEE FLU.
Leverpoole
Stopford
Warrington
Altringham
Knotesford
Macclesfeild
CHESTER
THE SCALE OF MILES
NORTH
EAST
SOUTH
The Armes of the Earles of Chester sins the Norman Conquest
Hugh Lupus Earl
Richard the sonne of Hu.
Ranulph Meschines
Ranulph Gernones
Hugh Ceuelioc E.S.
Ranulph Blundeuill
John Scot Earle

Map 1 Map of Cheshire from John Speed, *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine* (1616). By Permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

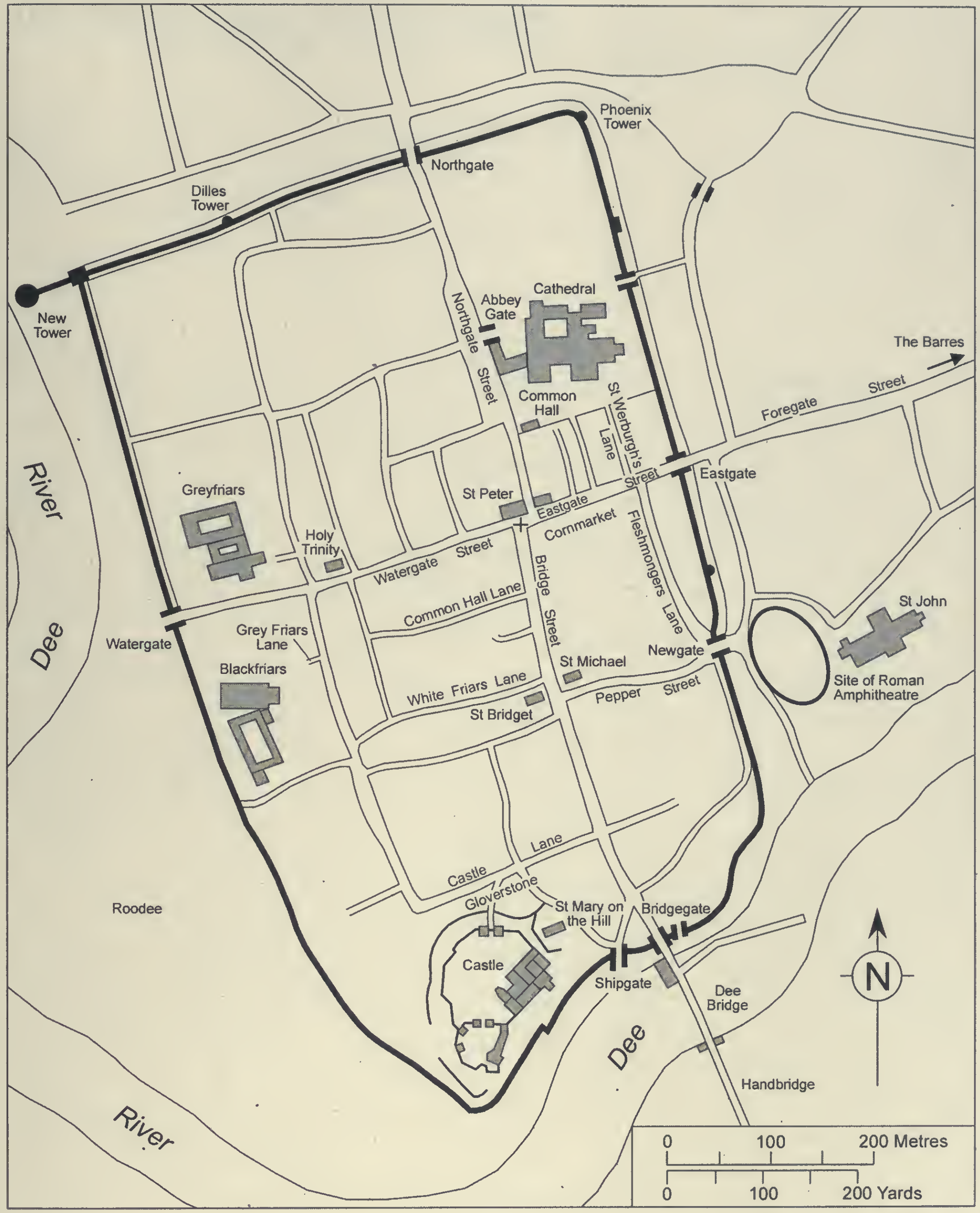

IRISH SEA
N
Lancashire
Liverpool
Lymm
Great Caldy
Heswall
Mouth of the Dee
Wirral
River Mersey
Runcorn
Stretton
Hatton
Clifton / Rocksavage
Dutton
Aston
Great Budworth
Neston
Ince
Frodsham
River
Witton
Holywell
Thornton le Moors
Alvanley
Weaverham
Northwich
Puddington
Shotwick
Lea
Norley
Leftwich
Mouldsworth
Davenham
Flintshire
Upton
Wimbolds Trafford
Peele
Vale Royal
Whitegate
River
CHESTER
Littleton
Barrow
Tarvin
Kelsall
Little Budworth
Over
Weaver
Christleton
Rowton
Utkinton
Lache
Boughton
Bruen Stapleford
Eaton
Darnhall
Lea
Eccleston
Tarporley
Wettenhall
Dodleston
Huxley
Alpraham
Calveley
Minshull Vernon
Tattenhall
Bunbury
Peckforton
WALES
Farndon
Barnhill
Harthill
Bulkeley
Wistaston
Crewe
Bickerton
Acton
Carden
Woodhey
Larkton
Egerton
NANTWICH
Dee
Flintshire
Cholmondeley
Denbighshire
Malpas
Wrenbury
River
Dee
Is-coed
Whitchurch
Audlem
Flintshire
Shropshire
To Shrewsbury
To Shrewsbury

Map 2 Cheshire, with principal period routes


Yorkshire
Lancashire
Pennines
Manchester
Mersey
River
Stockport
Marple
Dunham Massey
Timperleigh
Hale
Bowdon
Lymm
Bollington
River
Poynton
Lyme
Stretton
Rostherne
Hatton
Pownall
Adlington
Wilmslow
Derbyshire
Mobberley
Taxal
Dutton
Newton
Bollin
Great Budworth
Knutsford
Alderley
Prestbury
River
Weaverham
Witton
Nether Peover
Marthall
Lostock Gralam
Chelford
Astle
Northwich
MACCLESFIELD
Barnshaw
Leftwich
Birches
Withington
Vale Royal
Davenham
Siddington
Gawsworth
Whitegate
Byley
River
Little Budworth
Swettenham
Over
Weaver
Middlewich
Eaton
Dane
Brereton
Somerford
Lea
Eaton
Darnhall
Wettenhall
CONGLETON
Newbold Astbury
Alpraham
Calveley
Minshull Vernon
Sandbach
Moreton
Coppenhall
Church Lawton
Wistaston
Acton
Barthomley
NANTWICH
Wybunbury
Staffordshire
Wrenbury
Audlem
Shropshire
0
40 Km
0
20 Miles


CESTRIA VVLGO CHESTER, ANGLIÆ CIVITAS

Map 3 Map of Chester from Georg Braun, *Civitates Orbis Terrarvm* (1593–1618). This item is reproduced by permission of *The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.*


Phoenix Tower
Northgate
Dilles Tower
New Tower
Abbey Gate
Cathedral
Northgate Street
Common Hall
St Werburgh's Lane
St Werburgh's Street
The Barres
Foregate Street
Eastgate
River Dee
Greyfriars
St Peter
Eastgate
Commarket
Fleshmongers Lane
Holy Trinity
Watergate Street
Bridge Street
Common Hall Lane
St John
Watergate
Grey Friars Lane
Newgate
Blackfriars
St Michael
Site of Roman Amphitheatre
White Friars Lane
Pepper Street
St Bridget
Castle Lane
Gloverstone
Roodee
St Mary on the Hill
Bridgegate
Castle
Shipgate
Dee Bridge
Dee
N
Handbridge
River
0
100
200 Metres
0
100
200 Yards

Map 4 Chester, *c* 1625

Symbols

BI	Borthwick Institute
BL	British Library
Bodl.	Bodleian Library
CCALS	Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies
DRO	Denbighshire Record Office
JRL	John Rylands Library
TNA: PRO	The National Archives: Public Record Office

A	Antiquarian Compilation
AC	Antiquarian Collection
ML	Mayors List
ODNB	*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*
REED	Records of Early English Drama
RH II	Randle Holme II
STC	A.W. Pollard and G.R. Redgrave (comps), *Short-Title Catalogue … 1475–1640*
VCH	*The Victoria History of the Counties of England*
Wing	D.G. Wing (comp), *Short-Title Catalogue … 1641–1700*
*	(after folio, membrane, page, or sheet number) see endnote
〈…〉	lost or illegible letters in the original
[ ]	cancellation in the original
(blank)	a blank in the original where writing would be expected
° °	matter in the original added in another hand
⌜ ⌝	text written above the line
⌞ ⌟	text written below the line
^	caret mark in the original
...	ellipsis of original matter
|	change of folio, membrane, page, or sheet in continuous text
®	right-hand marginale
†	marginale too long for the left-hand margin

Province of York and Diocese of Chester

1556–8
Bishop Scott's Visitation Articles Greater Manchester County Record Office: E7/12/1/2
f [1v]*

…

Concernyng the dewe maner of lyving of the laitie/
Also whether you here tell of any assembles or co*n*venticles wherein is redd p*re*vie lecturs s*er*mons ^⌈or⌉ playes to thindrance or derysion of the Catholike faythe

…

1571
Archbishop Grindal's Injunctions and Visitation Articles STC: 10375
sig C3

19 Item, that the Minister & churchwardens shall not suffer any Lordes of misrule, or Sommer Lordes, or Ladies, or any disguised persons, or others in Christmasse, or at May games, or any Minstrels, Morice dauncers, or others, at Rishbearings or at any other times, to come vnreuerently into any Church, or Chappell, or Churchyarde, and there daunce, or play anye vnseemely partes, with scoffes, ieastes, wanton iestures, or rybaulde talke, namely, in the time of diuine seruice, or of anye sermon.

…

sig C2

…

61 Whether the Minister and Churchwardens haue suffered any Lordes of Misrule or Sommer Lordes or Ladies, or any disguised persons, or others in Christmasse, or at May games, or any Morice dauncers, or others at rishe bearings, or at anye other times, to come vnreuerently into the church, or

churchyard, and there to daunce, or playe any vnseemely partes with scoffes, iestes, wanton gestures, or ribalde talke, namely in the time of common praier. And what they be that commit such disorder, or accompanie or maintaine them?

...

1577–8

Archbishop Sandys' Visitation Articles STC: 10376

sig B3v*

...

40 Whether any morice dauncers, rishe bearers, or any others haue come vnreuerntly into the churh or churchyard, and there daunced, or played any vnseemely

1581

Bishop Chaderton's Visitation Articles STC: 10174.5

sig A2

® Church and Churchyards.

FIrst, whether ... your sayde Church, Chappell or Churchyarde be abused or prophaned by any vnlawfull, or unseemely acte, game, or exercise, as by Lordes of misrule, Summer lordes, or ladies, Pipers, Rushebearers, Moricedancers, Pedlers, Bearewardes, and such like. Then through whose default, and what be the names of the offenders in that behalfe.

...

1604

Bishop Vaughan's Visitation Articles STC: 10175

sig A2

® Church & churchyards.

FIrst, whether ... the sayd Church, Chappell, or Churchyard be abused or prophaned by any vnlawfull or vnseemely act, game, or exercise, as by Lords of misrule, Summer lords or ladies, Pipers, Rushbearers, Morris-dancers, Pedlers, Bearewards, and such like: Then through whose default, and what be the names of the offendours in that behalfe?

...

12/ vnreuerntly: *for* vnreuerently

12/ churh: *for* church

19, 31/ FIrst: *ornamental initial* F, *followed by black-letter capital* I

1605

Bishop Lloyd's Visitation Articles STC: 10176
sig B2

...

®Prophaning the Sabboth

44 FIrst, whether do any prophane the Sabboth day by vnlawfull games, by piping, dauncing, Stage playes, meeting at Aleberryes, drinking and tippling in time of common praier, or by working vpon the Sabboth dayes and holy dayes, since the xx. day of March, 1601, and what be their names that do so prophane the same?

...

1607

Archbishop Matthew's Visitation Articles STC: 10377.5
pp 8–9

...

38. Item Whether are there within your saide parish or Chappellry any Rush bearings, Bull-baytings, Beare-baitings, May-games, Morice-dances, Ailes, or any such like prophane pastimes or Assemblies on the Sabboth to the | hinderance of Prayers, Sermons, or other godly exercises.

...

1617

Bishop Morton's Visitation Articles STC: 10176.5
sig B2v

...

Rushbearings.

39 Item, Whether are there within your said Parish or chappelry any Rushbearings, Bul-baitings, Beare-baitings, May-games, Morrice-dances, Ales, or any such like prophane Passetimes, or, Assemblies on the Sabbath, to the hinderance of Praiers, Sermons, or other godly exercises?

...

1628–9

Archbishop Harsnett's Visitation Articles STC: 10379.7
p 9

...

39 Item, Whether are there within your sayd Parish or Chappelry, any Rush-bearing, Bull-baitings, May-games, Morice-dances, Ales, or any such

5/ FIrst: *ornamental initial* F, *followed by black-letter capital* I
26, 36/ Item: *roman; rest of text black-letter*

like prophane pastimes or assemblies on the Sabbath, to the hinderance of Prayers, Sermons, or other godly exercises?

...

1633

Archbishop Neile's Visitation Articles STC: 10380

sig A2

...

2 Whether hath your Church or Church-yard beene abused and prophaned by any fighting, chiding, brawling or quarrelling, any playes, Lords of misrule, summer Lords, morris-dancers, pedlers, bowlers, bearewards, butchers, feasts, schooles, temporall courts, or Leets, Lay Iuries, musters, or other prophane vsage in your Church or Church-yard, any bells superstitiously rung on holidayes or their eeues, or at any other time without good cause allowed by the Minister and Church-wardens: haue any trees been felled in your Church-yard, and by whom?

...

1634

Bishop Bridgeman's Visitation Articles STC: 10177

sig B2

...

45 Item, whether hath your Church or Chappel, Church-yard, or Chappel-yard beene abused or profaned by any fighting, quarelling, chiding, brawling, or by any Plaies, Lords of Mis-rule, Summer Lords, Morris-dancers, Pedlers, Bowlers, Beare-wards, Feasts, Schooles, Temporall Courts, or Leets, Laie Iuries, Musters, or other profane usage whatsoever?

...

1636

Archbishop Neile's Visitation Articles STC: 10380.5

sig A2

...

2 Whether hath your Church or Church yard beene abused, and prophaned by any fighting, chiding, brawling or quarrelling, any playes, Lords of misrule, summer Lords, morris-dancers, pedlers, bowlers, bearewards, butchers, feasts, schooles, temporall courts, or Leets, Lay Iuries, musters, or other prophane usage in your Church or Church-yard, any bells superstitiously rung on Holidayes or their eeves, or at any other time without good cause allowed by the Minister, and Church-wardens: have any Trees beene felled in your Church yard, and by whom?

...

1637

Bishop Bridgeman's Visitation Articles STC: 10178
pp 9–10

...

53 Item, Whether hath your Church or Chappell, Churchyard or Chappelyard beene abused or prophaned by fighting, quarrelling, chiding, brawling, Bearebaiting, or by any playes, Lords of misrule, Morrice-dancers, Pedlers, Bowlers, or of any feasts Schooles, Temporall, Courts, Mustars, Faires, or Markets, been kept therin, or hath any excommunicate person beene suffered to come into your | Church or Chappell, or beene buried therein in time of divine service, and when?

...

p 12

...

71 Item, Whether are there any within your Parish or Chappelry who have used any sports or recreations upon the Lords day commonly called Sunday, which have not beene at Morning and Evening Prayer, or otherwaies then is permitted and allowed by his Maiesties late Declaration published in that behalfe?

...

1640

Archbishop Neile's Visitation Articles STC: 10381
sig A2

...

2 Whether hath your Church or Church-yard beene abused, and prophaned by any fighting, chiding, brawling or quarrelling, any playes, Lords of misrule, summer Lords, morris-dancers, pedlers, bowlers, bearewards, butchers, feasts, schooles, temporall courts, or Leets, Lay-Iuries, musters, or other prophane usage in your Church or Church-yard, any bells superstitiously rung on Holidayes or their eves, or at any other time without good cause allowed by the Minister, and Church-wardens: have any Trees beene felled in your Church yard, and by whom?

...

5, 16/ Item: *r*

Townships, Parishes, and Other Localities

ACTON

1611
Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/17
f 57* *(9 October)*

Held for Nantwich deanery, before David Yale, LLD, *chancellor of the diocese, official principal*
...
con*tra* Thoma*m* hardinge
for haueinge an Ale on the Sabboath daie

con*tra* Ioh*ann*em Spencer
for drum*m*inge on Sabboath daies
...

1617
Ballads of the Life and Repentance of John Spenser STC: 23098
sheet 1

Iohn Spenser a Chesshire Gallant, his life and repentance, who for killing of one Randall Gam was lately executed at Burford a mile from Nantwich. To the tune of an Slumbringe Sleepe.

KInd hearted men, a while giue eare
and plainely Ile vnfold
The saddest tale that euer yet,
by mortal man was told.
One Spenser braue, of Cheshire chiefe,
for men of braue regarde

Yet hee vnto his Countries griefe,
did good with ill reward.

At Acton, neere Nantwich was borne
this man so famde of all;
Whose skill at each braue exercise,
was not accounted small:
For beating of the war-like Drumme
no man could him surpasse:
For vaunting, leaping, and such like,
in Cheshire neuer was.

For shooting none durst him oppose,
hee would ayme so faire and right;
Yet long he shot in crooked Bowes,
and could not hit the white:
For striuing still more things to learne,
the more he grew beloued:
No Shomaker but Spenser braue
by women was so prooued.

Those qualities did draw his minde,
from reason quite and cleane,
And vildly hee'd forsake his wife,
for the loue of euery Queane:
By Women he maintayned was
in parill fine and braue,
Iohn Spenser could no good thing want,
for he could but aske, and haue.

In Silkes and Sattins would he goe,
none might with him compare;
No fashion might deuised be,
but his should be as feire
When as (God knowes) his wife at home
should pine with hungry griefe,
And none would pitty her hard case,
or lend her some reliefe.

Whilst hee abroad did flaunt it out
amongst his lustfull Queanes,
Poor soule of force she sits at home,

without either helpe or meanes.
Thus long he liued basely vild,
contemd of all thats good
Till at last by hard mischaunce,
he did shead Giltless Blood.

One Randall Gam beinge drunke
with Spenser out did fall
And he being apt to Quariling,
would not be rul'd at all
But about the Pledging of a Glasse,
to which he would not yeeld
He vowed he either would be pledg'd
or answered fayre in field

This answer Randall Gam did deny,
which Spenser plainly found,
And being rag'd he strucke on blow
feld Randal gam to the ground
Seven weekes upon this he lay,
ere life from him did part:
And at the last to earth and clay,
his Body did conuert.

Then Spenser was in prison cast
his friendes full farre did ly,
For frindship in them proued cold,
and none would come him nie.
That man being kild, beloued was well
Of all men farre and neare,
And some did follow Law so farre
did cost poore Spenser deare.

For though he kild him by mischance,
yet Law him so disdaines.
That for the vnrespected blow,
he there was hangd in Chaines.
He that was kild, had many friends,
the other few or none,
Therefore the Law, on that side went,
and the other was orethrone.

He being dead, two Milke white Doues,
did houer ouer his head,
And would not leaue that hartlesse place,
after he three howers was dead.
Two milke white Butterflies did light,
upon his Breches there:
And stood Confronting peoples sight,
to their amase and feare.

Though he was vildly bent in life,
and hangd the Law to quit:
Yet he was stolne away by his wife,
and Buryed in the night.
His true repentance is exprest,
within the second part:
With all his Gilt he hath confest,
when troubled was his heart.

FINIS. by Thomas Dickerson

sheet 2

Iohn Spenser his Repentance in Prison, Written with his owne hands as he lay in Chester Castle. To the same tune.

KInd Youngmen all to mee giue eare,
obserue these lessons well;
For vndeserued my death I tooke,
and sad is the tale I tell.
I prisond pent, I lie full fast,
sure Heauen hath decreed:
That though I thriued, yet at last,
bad fortunes should proceed.

I that for practise passed all,
in exercises strong,
Haue heere for one offence but small,
been pent in Prison long.
Kind Countrymen, faire warning take,
beeing bad, amend your liues,
For sure Heauen will them forsake,
that doe forsake their wiues.

I haue a wife, a louing wife,
a constant, and a kind;
Yet proud of gifts, I turnd my life,
And falce she did me find:
Heauen shewed his part in making me,
proper in limbes and face,
Yet of it I no true vse made,
but reapt thereby disgrace.

For being proud in dancinge art,
most womens loues I gaynd:
By them a long time was my life
in gallant sort maintayned:
Not Mayden young, about the towne,
but ioyfull was to see
The face of Spenser, and would spend,
all for to daunce with mee.

I spent my time in Ryoting,
and proudly led my life,
I had my choice of damsels fayre,
what card I for my wife,
If once she came to intreat me home,
I'd kick her out of doors,
Indeed I would be ruld by none,
but by intising whores.

At length being pledging of a Glasse,
my hopes I did confound:
And in my rag I feld my friend,
with one blow to the ground.
For this offence, he being dead,
and I in prison cast:
Most voyd of hopes this rashing hand
hath Spensers name disgrast.

None but my wife will visit me,
for those I lou'd before,
Being in this sad extremytie,
will visit me no more,
No helpe I find from these false friends,
no food to inrich my life:

Now doe I find the difference true,
twixt them and a constant wife

But she poore soule, by my bad meanes,
is quit bereft of all:
She playes the part of a Constant wife,
although her helpes be small.
Young men, young men, take heed by me
shun Dangers, Brawles, and Strife:
For though he fell against my will,
I for it loose my life.

O liue like men and not like me,
of no good giftes be proud:
For if with you God angry be,
from his vengeance nought can shroud.
Make vse of what you haue practis'd well,
and not in vitious meanes,
If in rare gifts you do excell,
yet trust not Vitious Queanes.

For lust doth fully fill their Vaynes,
and apt they be to intise:
O therefore shunne their company,
like good men still be wise.
Example truly take of me,
all Vitious courses shunne:
For onely by bad company,
poore Spenser is vndone.

FINIS. by Iohn Spenser.
...

ADLINGTON

1630

Will of Lucy Gobert, Widow CCALS: WS 1635
single mb* *(9 November; proved 1635)*
...

...It*em* I giue and bequeath vnto my grandchild Luce Barrington daughter of the said S*ir* Thomas Barrington a border of gold enamiled and beset w*ith* pearle, and my Chist or sett of Six Violls...

ALDERLEY

1633

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings BI: V.1633 CB.2B
f 536v *(4 December)*

Held for Macclesfield deanery, in the collegiate church of Manchester, before William Easdall, LLD

...

Offici*um* d*omi*ni con*tra* Katherina*m* Dawson vid*uam* for a negligent com*mer* to the Church and for neglecting to bringe Rushes & flowers to adorne the Church as the Custome is

Ven*eris* post Purific*ationem* °Ex*communicacio* sol*ucio* dimiss*io*°

Quo die compar*ui*t d*ic*ta dawson p*er* Rob*ertum* Paige cui d*omi*nus iniunxit to repaire &c °postea vero 19 decembr*is* 1634 [intero] introd*uctum* fuit Cer*tificariu*m de diligen*tia* d*ic*te dawson vnde d*omi*n*us* eam dimisit°

ALPRAHAM

1621

Great Sessions Presentments *B* TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/2
single sheet* *(3 September)*

...

we p*re*sent Iohn [Bar] Borrowes of Alpram for for making a Love alle & gathering an vnruly assembly & for Intertaning a bearward & his Bears & for Bearbating/ at the same tyme ther was Brawling in my sight

°Billa vera°

ALVANLEY

1638

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: QJF 67/3/33
f [1]* *(7 August)*

Taken at Thornton before George Byrom, DD and JP

...

Ellen Dobson servant to Iames Collier sworne & examined saith y*at* on ffriday last was sevennight Thomas Penkett of Wimbalstrafford husbandman & Alice Ash widdow came to Iames Colliers howse of Alvenley Aleseller in ye morninge betime & they did lie together in bedd all ffriday at night

---

13/ iniunxit: *5 minims in MS*
23/ for for: *dittography*
37/ ffriday last was sevennight: *27 July 1638*

Saturday night Sunday night & munday night followinge & on ye said Saturday at night this examinat did lie at ye said Ales her back, ye foresaid Penkett beinge in bedd w*i*th them bothe, for this examinat could not get ye said Ales to lie from ye said Penkett, & this examinat did heare ye said Penkett call her ye said Ales his kinswoman, & saith they spent in bread & drinke ye sum*m*e of 14 s. 6 d. & this examinat lent ye s*ai*d Ales 2 s. & further saith y*a*t ye said Penkett caused this examinat to send Dorothie Grimsdich to ffradsham to fetch ye said Ales to him & this examinat gaue ye said Dorothie 3 d. in bread for her paines & saith y*a*t ye said Ales continued in ye said Colliers howse from ye foresaid ffriday morninge vntill ye Wednesday followinge, & this examinat saith shee asked ye said Ales Ash whie shee would lie w*i*th ye said Penkett hee beinge another womans husbande, & ye said Ales replied because shee thought shee was w*i*th childe by him, & shee ye said Ales, & ye said Penkett tould this examinat they would goe to liue in Ireland together, & they would neuer refuse one another whatsoeuer became of them, & further saith, y*a*t on ye foresaid Saturday & Sunday at night they had a Piper. Vizt old Towres & ye said Ales & Penkett did dance together, & ye said Alice paid for ye Musick, & the said Alice called her selfe on Mr Ionsons daughtor, & shee called her selfe by the name of [a gentleman] a gentlewoman but this examinat hath credibly heard shee hath beene laide of ye ffrench pox & ye said Alice & Penkett left vppon ye score at Colliers howse 19 s. 9 d.

...

ASTBURY

1601

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/12b
f 71v

Held for Middlewich deanery, at Chester Cathedral, before David Yale, LLD

...

con*tra* hugon*em* warde
for keeping drinkinge harping & dancinge in the sabaoth daie °Quib*us* die et loco comp*ar*uit warde et fatetur beinge a verie poore man hee had an ale and that there was dauncinge & harpinge appon the Saboth daie in the after nowne & not otherwyse & denieth hee selleth anie ale savinge att that tyme d*omi*nus iniunxit ei[s] to confes his falte coram Re*c*tore ecclesie de Asbure et ad cer*ti*ficand*um* in festo o*mn*i*um* sanctor*um* p*roximo*°

...

---

p 14, l.39–p 15, l.1/ all ffriday ... followinge: *27–30 July 1638*

10–11/ ffriday ... followinge: *27 July–1 August 1638*

38/ iniunxit: *4 minims in* MS

ASTLE

1619

***Great Sessions Presentments* A** TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/2
single sheet *(5 September)*

...

°fiat Cap*cio*°

We p*re*sent Iohn wilson of Astle for keepinge and sellinge of Ale vpon the Saboath day and other dayes beinge not bounden And alsoe for havinge pypinge and dauncinge at his house in the nighte tyme of the same day:./
We p*re*sent Will*ia*m Baguley of marthall for sellinge of Ale vpon the Saboath day & for procuringe a pyp*er* to playe and pype vpon the saboath day forth of his owne p*ar*ishe contrary to his ma*iesties* directiones
Alsoe we p*re*sent Henry Boone for pypinge at the places aforesaid and drawinge of people togeather [content] contrary to his ma*iesties* directiones and woulde not forbeare at the constables comand

...

AUDLEM

1619

Letter of Thomas Delves to Sir Thomas Chamberlain
TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/2
f [1]* *(22 September)*

I haue accordinge to your lo*rdshi*ps orders taken such of the alesellers as I coulde meete w*i*th bounde to appeare before your lo*rdshi*ps onlie twoe ould women w*hi*ch are not able to travell neither went they before mee: but I receaued a true informac*i*on of there disabilities by the Constables, v〈..〉ar, and neighboures. I did likewise spare Lawrence Harwarr clarke of the Churche, w*hi*ch by reason of the twoe sermons: and his attendance vpon the Church duties I haue spared as yo*u*r lo*rdshi*ps further please to com*m*ande There was multitudes of people that flocked to this rude and vngodlie sporte I am p*er*swaded a thowsand p*er*sons vpon Mondaie and Tuesdaie, there was some quarrellinge Sondaie, some vppon Mondaie, and some vpon Tuesdaie, some drye blowes and some bloode shedd. yeasterdaie onlie one man hurte w*i*th a sworde in the arme I am p*er*swaded had not your lo*rdshi*ps com*m*and taken awaie the occasion there woulde haue beene much blood spilt I haue endeavoured to p*er*forme your lo*rdshi*ps com*ma*und (althoughe S*i*r Richard Lee and my self receaue the censure of busy enformers) alledginge the sceenes

14/ the places aforesaid: *Astle and Marthall*
34/ Mondaie and Tuesdaie: *20–1 September 1619*
35/ Sondaie ... Tuesdaie: *19–21 September 1619*

of that sporte both at Sanbatch and Haslington, and by that example haue taken vpon them this bouldnes; w*hi*ch they will alledge for there best excuse And soe prayinge to god you maie longe contynewe w*i*th vs, to doe good to his service, and this com*m*onwealthe, w*i*th thankes for your patience to spare my attendance. Conclude w*i*th remembrance of my humble service.

Dodington this xxijth
of September 1619.

°fiat Cap*cio* steay proses°

The names of the Alesellers
in the Towne of Awdlem

Richard Collie
Iohn Whyte
Ioane Bate
Richard Ioll〈..〉
Raphe Iollie
will*iam* ffrance*s*
widow Hurleston
Iohn Brindley
Will*iam* Podmore
Richard Gilbert

these appeared
and are bound

(signed) Thomas: Delues:

[will*iam*] ⌜Samuell⌝
Davison
Raphe Withers
Iohn Shenton
Raphe Massie

these appeared not but sent for by warrant
to appeare before your lo*rdshi*ps

Will*iam* White — one of the Beare hirers bound.

Roger Barker
Randle Whinteley

the other two that hired the Beares. vnbound but
sent for by warrant to be before your lo*rdshi*ps

1620

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: QJF 49/2/53

f [2] *(13 July)*

. . .

Ioane Clease: of Awdlem servant to Richard Collie saieth That Hugh Sutton, Iohn Clarke, Hugh wright and Henry Iefsonne came into her maisters howse about .8. or .9.^{en} a clocke, and were there singinge and drinkinge till about daie in the morninge And saieth That Thomas Iolly one of the watchmen aforesaid came into the howse and fell at ill word*es* w*i*th her mistris And saieth. That shee thinketh if he had not beene droncke, he would not haue called her mistris a dronken hoore but is not able to sweare that he was dronke

. . .

1621

Consistory Court Depositions CCALS: EDC 5/1621/8 Norton

f [2] *(11 May) (Deposition of Roger Tew of Audlem, age 60)*

Taken on articles on behalf of Ann Browne in a matrimonial suit against Roger Orton

...

Ad 7 dicit the ar*ticu*late Robe*r*te Wythers was all ye time of his p*ro*ducc*i*on in this Cause a pip*er* a Com*m*on scoffer and Iester and hath often times disguysed himself and taken vpon him the p*er*son of a foole or Iester Carrieinge in his hand a bauble att May games or oth*er* times to move idle people to gaze and laugh att his foolery and hath [⟨...⟩ed] ‸⌜lytle or non oth*er*⌝ meanes butt pipeinge to live on to his knowledge et al*ite*r nescit

...

f [2v] *(28 June) (Deposition of George Tew of Norton in Hales, Shropshire)*

...

Ad 7^{m} dicit that thar*ticu*late Rob*er*te Wyth*er*s is a pyp*er* a Iester and hath often times disguised himself and taken vpon him the p*er*son of a foole or Iester and liveth by such Courses Et al*ite*r nescit

...

f [3] *(Deposition of Thomas Malpas of Norton in Hales, Shropshire, age 50)*

...

Ad vj ‸⌜et 7⌝ dicit R*o*b*er*te withers dothe plea vppon a paire of Pypes al*ias* nescit depon*ere*

...

BARNHILL

1612

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 11/71

ff [1–1v] *(22 September)*

Taken at Chester before John Ratcliffe, mayor

...

Thomas ffisher of the said Cittie of Chester butcher sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth and sayth that he this exa*minate* beinge at the Barnehill vpon a Monday synce Midsomer laste, the Certayne day of the moneth whereof he this depon*ent* doth not now remember, at a bearebayte there and haveinge sett a dogge of this exa*mina*t*es* vpon the beare accordinge to the order of the game. he the same exa*mina*t*e* beinge about to tayle of his Dogge, an other dogge fell Casually loose vpon the same beare. Wherevpon this exa*mina*t*e* was in the [hu] hurlie burly and tumult that fell therevpon strucken downe and wounded and was w*i*th the same stroke soe astonyed that he did not knowe [neither] who wounded the man that was there slayne, neither who hurte this exa*mina*t*e* saveinge that he heard by the reporte of one Walshe that one George Sillito ‸⸢and humfrey Eyton⸣ did hurte him ‸⸢w*i*th a sworde⸣ and beinge further exa*min*ed what Weapons this exa*mina*t*e* or any other [his] Chester men had then aboute them sayth they had none at all to this exa*mina*t*es* knowledge

(signed) Thomas fisher

Thomas Walshe of the said Citte butcher sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth and sayth that he this exa*mina*t*e* beinge at a bearebayte at Barnehill somewhat after Midsom*er* laste a dogge of this exa*mina*t*es* did slipp the Coller and fell vpon the beare Wherevpon there grew an affray and [one slayne] one Was slayne whose name this exa*mina*t*e* knoweth not And sayth that he this exa*mina*t*e* did see him fall but [did] knoweth not who did kill him and further sayth that the man that Was slayne had a longe bill in his hand and did ‸⸢w*i*th the same⸣ stryke downe diu*ers* that passed by him W*i*thout respect or regarde as this exa*mina*t*e* Conceaved And sayth that he this exa*mina*t*e* at the tyme of the affray had noe Weapon vpon him/

+ |

Paule Coulton of the Cittie of Chester butcher sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth and sayth that he this depon*en*t haveng bene abroade in the Countrey aboute his busynes [after] Came throwe Barne hill where there Was a beare bayte the Certayne tyme When he remembreth not and sayth he sawe a Course or two and soe Came home to Chester And afterwardes heard that there was a man slayne at the bearebayting/ And more Cannot depose

+

Richard Iames of the Cittie of Chester butcher sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth and sayth that he this exa*mina*t*e* aboute Midsomer laste did borowe a Whelpe of Thomas Annyon of the said Cittie butcher of half a yeare ould and did goe w*i*th the same to Barne hill to a bearebayte there [but say] Carryinge a staffe aboute [half] a yarde longe & beinge aboute the thicknes of his finger but sayth he did not putt the same Whelpe or any other dogge vpon the

24/ +: *Walsh's personal mark*

32/ +: *Coulton's personal mark*

beare, neither did vse the same staffe but deliu*er*ed the same to a woman to hould in regard it was ordered that noe Chester men should Carrye any staves but putt A Contreyman indifferent for them to stave of their dogges And sayth he knoweth not who killed the man that was slayne at the same beare bayte and more deposeth not/

+

William Iames of the said Cittie of Chester butcher sworne and exa*min*ed Deposeth and sayth that he this exa*minat*e beinge aboute the busynes of Richard Rob*ertes* Butcher neere Barnehill since Midsomer laste Came thither to a beare bayte but sayth [befo] after he had alighted from his horsse and before he Could Come to the place of the bearebayte there Was an affray Wherein Thomas ffisher butcher was hurte and sayth one other man Was slayne but knoweth not Who killed him And sayth that neither this exa*minat*e nor any other Chester man to his knowledge had any staffe w*ith* him or them At the tyme of the same affray saveinge one Thomas Modesley who had a longe staffe w*ith* him but sayth he did not stryke w*ith* the same and more doth not depose

(signed) William Iames

Thomas Modesley of the Cittie of Chester labourer ‸⌈sworne & exa*min*ed deposeth &⌉ Sayth that this exa*minat*e beinge aboute Midsomer laste at the Barne hill to see an au*n*t of his there there was a beare bayte Wherevpon there fell [an] an affray at W*hi*ch tyme this depon*ent* had a longe staffe in his hand Wherew*i*th he did not stryke at all but standinge aloofe from the Company departed away w*i*th the same staffe W*hi*ch was deliu*er*ed him at Barnehill aforesaid [to be Carryed] by the exa*minat*es sayd Aunte to be [Carry] deliu*er*ed to one Richard Davies of Mickle Trafford and sayth he knoweth not Who killed the man that Was slayne at the same beare bayte/ And more Cannot depose

+

Capta Coram nobis
(signed) Iohn Ratclyffe Maior
(signed) Will*iam* Aldersey
(signed) Iohn lytler
(signed) William Gamull

6/ +: *James' personal mark*
31/ +: *Modesley's personal mark*

BARNSHAW

1622
Great Sessions Presentments TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/4
f [2v]* *(23 September)*

...
Iohn Waynewright of Barneshawe keepes a disordered howse by intertayninge of bearward*es* & so g*et*t*eth* fightinge, and bloodshead.
...

BARROW

1587
Codicil to the Will of Thomas Brereton, Gentleman CCALS: WS 35/15
f [1v]* *(25 July 1587; proved 14 February 1587/8)*

...
...Also I geue to my nephew Edward Savage my Virginall*es*...
...

1625
Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/26
f 4 *(3 October)*

Held for Chester deanery, before Thomas Stofford, LLB, *and in the presence of John Morgell, registrar*

Con*tra* Rob*er*tum Edge Iun*ior*
for pypeinge vpon ye Saboth daie before eveninge prayer to ye p*ro*phaninge of ye lord*es* daie and hindringe ye people from comeing to Church
...

BARTHOMLEY

1605
Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/14
f 62 *(25 October)*

Held for Nantwich deanery, at Witton church, before David Yale, LLD, *official principal*

...
con*tra* [Radu] ⌜Willi*am*⌝ Hartleys

for pypinge on the sabbaoth daie & givinge evill speaches °Quo die comp*ar*uit et d*omin*us iniunxit ei ad confitend*um* offensu*m* in Bartomly p*er* v*nu*m diem°

BICKERTON

1615

Quarter Sessions Presentments CCALS: QJF 44/2/12
single sheet *(18 July)*

Made at Nantwich

...

Rondull Moreton late of Harthill in the Countie of Chester taylor found pipeinge in Bickerton in the said Countie vppon Whitsunday being the xxviij^th^ of May last at the time of divine service, contrarie to a statute in that case provided, and p*re*sented

(signed) By me Raffe Bressie

°Billa Vera°

1616

Assize Presentments TNA: PRO CHES 24/113/3
f [1v]* *(4 July)*

...

°17° °to be bound to the assizes°

We p*re*sent Richard Plat of Tattenhall for pipinge in bickerton at the time of divine service vpon Sondaye the xxiij^th^ of Iune last, Contrarye to the statute in that case made and p*ro*vided./

...

BOLLINGTON

1609

Quarter Sessions Information CCALS: QJF 38/3/65
single sheet* *(1 October)*

Given before Sir George Booth, JP

...

Edward ffrith sayeth that vppon Mounday was [fortnight] three weekes he being at the howse of will*iam* Howlcroft in Bollington where much

---

2/ iniunxit: *5 minims in MS*

companie was com*me* to see beare bayting, there was also in or neere the said howse Edward Sympson the yonger and Iohn Sanders of Bowdon, & Iohn Tipping of Tatton standing all together w*i*th some others, whoe in deryding manner flowted Richard woodworth s*er*vant to S*i*r George Bouthe as he passed by them not [g] quyetlie w*i*thout any word speaking to any of them, in so much that the said Iohn Sanders sayed he was a man of a [who] hote nature, wherevppon this Ex*aminat* demanded wherefore they so scorned him behind his back but none of them would answ*er* [y] ⌈the⌉ w*hi*ch speaches the said woodworth being in the howse overheard and as they the said companie were going homeward*es* the said woodworth Rehearsed the said speaches to them desyring to knowe their Reason wherevpo*n* fowle wordes were gyven on all sydes, but in the end vpon speaches that the said woodworth gave as in saying the said Sanders was but a boye and he was ashamed to medle w*i*th him the said Iohn Tipping [wa] did call woodworth asyde to chalenge him the field. and so they p*ar*ted for that tyme and more sayeth not, save that he thinketh by the manner of their deryding woodworth at the first before he [⟨..⟩] spoke any word to them that the had some malice vnto him

...

BOUGHTON

1608

***Great Sessions Presentments* B** TNA: PRO CHES 24/109/3

f [1]* *(4 July)*

...

Item Wee doe present willia*m* wittingam of Boughton for keepinge vnlawfull gaminge in his howse And beare beatinge vpon the sabbathe daye: And resettinge quenes and soldiars together in his howse to the greate disquietnes of [soldiahs] neighbors

...

1618

***Great Sessions Presentments* A** TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4

single sheet *(20 September)*

Thomas ball of bowghton gent*leman* hye constable of the hundred of broxton doth present Iohn moyle of bowghton aforesayd for keepyng a love all on sonday the xxth of September & kepyng ty[n]plyng & ⟨..⟩incking in his h[is]owse all the affter noone of the same daye & fidlyng & dauncing

---

5/ not [g]: *incomplete cancellation*

& men*es* searvant*es* there drincking ‸⌜and brawlinge⌝ for the most p*ar*t of that nyght
°Billa vera°

BOWDON

1619
Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/22
f 46

Held for Frodsham deanery
...
Con*tra* Ioh*ann*em Hesketh Alexandrum Awen Cl*er*icum p*arochia*lem de Bodon et humfredum Starkie °mortuus°
for Makeinge of Ales vpon the Saboth daie haueinge pypeinge and danceinge to the dishonore of and p*ro*phaneinge the lord*es* daie °quo die comp*ar*uit Awen & because hee tooke his othe the pyper plade not vntyll after eveninge prayer d*omi*n*us* dimisit et hesketh h*ab*et ad confitend*um* offensu*m* pu*bli*ce in Eccl*es*ia de Bodon et ad certifi*candum* in festo na*tivitat*is d*omi*ni p*roximo*°
...

f 47
...
Con*tra* Edwardu*m* Barrett Thoma*m* Greenough et Edwardu*m* Hamnett
for haveinge Ales vpon the Saboth daie °d*omi*n*us* iniunxit grenoaghe to acknowlege his faltes publiquelie in boden Church & to certefie in festo na*tivitat*is d*omi*ni p*roximo*°
...

f 47v
...
Con*tra* Petrum drinckwater et Reginaldu*m* higgenson
for haueinge Ales vpon the Saboth daie w*i*th pipeing and danceinge to the hindrance of divine s*er*vice °quo die comp*aruit* et d*omi*n*us* iniu*n*xit ei to confes his falte before the Minister & chorchwardens°

14/ mortuus: *3 minims in* MS
18/ dimisit: *4 minims in* MS
25/ iniunxit: *5 minims in* MS

BRERETON

1516/17

Examination Concerning the Murder of Laurence Swetman
TNA: PRO STAC 2/3
single sheet *(10 February) (Deposition of George Barrington)*

Taken before Thomas Lowelles, Sir Marney, and others

…

The same George Saith that he wase neu*er* p*ar*tie ner of Counsell to the dethe of the said Swetman and that he woll p*ro*ue, and dare abide the Triall of his Contre; And Sayth at the tyme th⟨..⟩ the same Swetman wase m*ur*dred, he was in oon Rauf Slader house at Breerton all the aft*er* noon ‸⌜of the same daye⌝ dawncyng, and when he herde of the m*ur*dor and that p*ur*suyte wase made to take the m*ur*derers. he wi*th* suche company as dawnced wi*th* hym wen forthe to the grene to help take them but they flede. and the same Baryngton p*ur*sued asfer as ther house wher they twellid Indeuoryng hym self to haue taken them if he had coude but neither he ner noon of Company sawe them aft*er* to his knowlech. And then he retorned home ayen to his father house; wi*th*out that, that he wase eu*er* assentyng or concentyng to the said m*ur*dor or p*ro*cured any p*er*son [the] therunto, or in lettyng the taking of the said m*ur*drers in any wise but [indef] indeuored hym self to haue had them taken wi*th*out any Colo*r* touchyng ther Rescue in any wise, And he saith that to his knowlech that ther wase neu*er* cause betwixt mr brethone*r* & hym ner noo*n* of [m] his frend*es* that shuld be Occasion of Any suche Malice, betwixt them; and asfor the man*ne* þat dide the m*ur*do*r* he saith he neu*er* wase of his acquynt*a*unc*e* nor thother of his to his knowlech &c

…

1624

Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Robert Robinson
TNA: PRO CHES 24/117/3
single mb *(6 August)*

per infort*unium*

Inquisic*io* Indentat*a* Capt*a* apud Brereton in Com*itatu* Cestr*ie* sexto die Augusti Anno Regni d*omi*ni n*ost*ri Iacobi dei gr*aci*a Angl*ie* ffrancie et Hib*er*nie Regis fidei defensor*is* &c xxij^{o} et Scocie lviij^{o} Coram Rad*ulph*o Lytler gen*eroso* vno Coronator*um* d*ict*i d*omi*ni Regis Com*itatui* p*re*d*ict*o sup*er* visum corpor*is* Rob*er*ti Robinson nup*er* de Brereton p*re*d*icta* in Com*itatu* p*re*d*ict*o laborer adtunc & ib*ide*m sup*er* terr*am* mortu*i* iacent*is*

16/ wen: *for* went

p*er* sacra*mentu*m Hugonis wright Ioh*anni*s Deane Ric*ard*i Pott Ran*ulph*i Bostocke Will*elm*i Iackson Ioh*anni*s Dale Ric*ard*i Shawe Ioh*anni*s Deane Ioh*anne*s Barlowe Ric*ard*i Lea Ioh*anni*s Baddeley Ric*ard*i Cocker Ric*ard*i Oke⟨.⟩ & Ioh*anni*s Shawe Iur*atorum* prob*orum* & leg*a*liu*m* hom*inum* p*redicte* ville de Brereton ville de Bradwall ville de Smallwood ville de Sandbache ville de Arclid et ville de Davenport ville in Com*itatu* p*redicto* existent*is*. Qui dicunt sup*er* sacra*mentu*m suu*m* p*redictum* quod p*redictus* Rob*er*tus Robinson quarto die Augusti Anno Regni d*icti* d*omi*ni R*egis* xxij^{o} sup*ra*dict*o* apud Brereton p*redictam* in quodam loco ib*ide*m vocat*o* Brereton greene attulit se cum quendam vrsum ad cursand*um*, Qui quidem vrsus p*er* infortuniu*m* subito momordit eund*em* Rob*er*tum Robinson in subteriore parte ventris sui de qua quidem mord*icatione* p*redictus* Rob*er*tus Robinson a p*redicto* quarto die Augusti Anno Regni d*ict*i d*omi*ni Regis xxij^{o} sup*ra*dict*o* vsq*ue* p*roximum* diem tunc sequent*em* languabat quo quidem die p*redictus* Rob*er*tus Robinson apud Brereton p*redictum* de mord*icatione* p*redicta* obijt Et sic Iur*atores* p*redicti* sup*er* sacra*mentu*m suu*m* p*redictum* dicunt quod p*redictus* Rob*er*tus Robinson modo & forma p*redictis* ad mortem suam devenit & non aliter, Et quod vrsus p*redictus* valet xiij li. vj s. viij d. et remanet in custod*ia* cuiusd*em* will*elm*i Berrington de Brereton p*redicta*. In cuius rei testimoniu*m* tam p*re*fat*us* Coronator q*ua*m Iur*atores* p*redicti* huic Inquisic*i*oni sigill*a* sua*s* alternat*im* apposuer*unt* die Anno et Loco primo sup*ra*dict*is*.

Rad*ulph*us Lytler Coronator

BULKELEY

1618

Quarter Sessions Recognizance CCALS: QJF 47/4/115
single mb* *(11 December)*

Com*itatus* Cestr*ie* *sessiones* ⟨...⟩

M*emorandum* q*uo*d vndecimo die decembr*is* Anno regni d*omi*ni n*ost*ri Iacobi dei gra*tia* Anglie ffraunc*ie* et hib*er*nie regis ⟨...⟩ Scotie quinquagesimo *secu*ndo 1618 vener*unt* Coram nobis Rob*ert*o Cholmondeley Barronett*o* Georgio Calueley Milit*e* Ric*ard*o Grosvenor Ar*migero* & Edw*ard*o dutton Ar*migero* Iustic*iarijs* dict*i* d*omi*ni Regis ad pacem in ead*em* Com*itatu* Conserv⟨...⟩ ⟨...⟩ Hardinge de Bulkeley in Com*itatu* p*redicto* husband*man* & recogn*ouit* se debe*re* d*omi*no Regi l s. bone & leg*a*lis monete Anglie & Thom*as* Boult de ead*em* yeom*an* scil*ice*t [rega] recogn*ouit* ^⌜se debe*re*⌝ d*ict*o d*omi*no Rege l s.

6–7/ ville in ... existent*is*: *for* villarum ... existencium
10/ cum quendam vrsum: *for* cum quodam vrso
32/ 1618: *underlined*
34/ ead*em*: *for* eodem
34/ Conserv⟨...⟩: *for* Conservandam
36/ Regi: i *corrected from* e
37/ Rege: *for* Regi

viz quilib*et* e*orum* sep*ar*atim ⟨…⟩ recogn*ouit* se deber*e* d*icto* d*omi*no Regi de terr*is* & ten*ementis* bon*is* Chatt*allis* & Catt*allis* ad opus & vsum d*ict*i d*omi*ni Regi ⟨…⟩ sub Cond*iccion*e sequent*i* viz
The Condic*i*on of the recognizance is such That whereas thaboue bounden Thomas hardinge is admit⟨…⟩ Iust⟨…⟩ of peace w*i*thin the hundred of Broxton & Countie of Chester aboue written to keepe a Comon alehowse ⟨…⟩ att Bulkley aforesaid, yf therefore the said Thomas harding during the tyme that he shall kepe Comon selling of ⟨…⟩ or keepe good & wholsome bread drink & vitualls & doe sell the same att resonable price That is to saie ⟨…⟩ best ale or beare for apenye & not aboue & lykewyse of the seacound suite twoe quarts for apenie & not aboue ⟨…⟩ be vsed in his said howse or the p*re*cint*es* thereof any vnlawfull game or games whatsoeu*er* p*ro*hibited by the lawes of ⟨…⟩ support or maintaine any suspected p*er*son or p*er*sons whatsoeu*er* nor buye recept or receive any stollen good*es* or Cattells ⟨…⟩ beinge brought theither by any suspected p*er*son or p*er*sons whatsoeu*er*, nor vse or suffer to be vsed in his sayd howse & the p⟨…⟩ ⟨…⟩ evill rule drunkennes or other disorder nor suffer any man*er* of p*er*sons whatsoeu*er* to staie or be in his howse drinking att ⟨…⟩ ⟨…⟩ght aclocke in the night nor doe sell nor sufer to be sould any ale beere or victualls to any man*er* of p*er*sons ⟨…⟩ ⟨…⟩r holie daies att the tyme of divine service or sermon vnles yt be in Cases of necessitie for ⟨…⟩ & infirme people, & doe not att any tyme or tymes support harbor or releeve w*i*th meate drink ⟨…⟩ l⟨.⟩dging any ⟨…⟩hibited by the lawes & statut*es* of this Realme That is to saie drunkard*es* Rouges vagabons straunge wa⟨…⟩ing ⟨…⟩ players Bearewarde*s* Iudglers ffencers & such lyke But in all thing*es* keepe him selfe & his howse in ⟨…⟩ ⟨…⟩uch as in him lyeth Then this Recognizaunce to be voyde & of non effecte or els yt to stand & be in full power & ⟨…⟩uprascript' apud handley p*re*d*ictam* hijs p*er*son*is* subsequent*ibus* scil*icet* recogn*oscentibus* dicto d*omi*no Regi sep*ar*al*iter* sommas sequen*tes*
…

BUNBURY

1548

Consistory Court Depositions CCALS: EDC 2/4
pp 61–2* *(Deposition of Richard Hogekinson of Bunbury, about age 20)*
…
Ad *secundum* ar*ticulum* this deponent sais *y*at apon a sondeye as far as he reme*m*bres abowt a fortnyght after mydsom*er* last past he Beyng in his

---

2/ Chatt*allis* & Catt*allis*: *for* & Cattallis
3/ Regi: *for* Regis
38–9/ sondeye … past: *probably 8 July 1548*

fathers howse aft*er* evensonge apon the same Daye herde a greatt noise abowt the Broke benethe his fathers howse, and this deponent goeng thid*er* fonde Ione orton and Elene horton hyr sister w*ith* Agnes dod Ione Willia*m*son and alis smyth pleyeng att the Broke and lading wat*er* one apon an other, and att this deponent comeng to them accompanied w*ith* his sister Katarine the said Ione orton desired this d*e*ponent and his sist*er* w*ith* all the residue to goe to the grene to the meypoll ther and they wold pleye att the Ball wich they did and Bye the waye goeng thid*er* the said Ione [inq*ui*red] orton inq*ui*red | off Katarine hogekinson this deponent sist*er* wher Katari*ne* Dun*ne* hyr dame was to whom the said Katarine hogekinson answared *ya*t she thoght *ya*t she was att home, then the said Ione orton desired the said Katarine hogekinson to tell to the said Katarine dun*ne* hyr dame, *ya*t iff she had goten no more w*ith* lyeing vnd*er* m*r* [egerton] Ric*hard* egerton then hyr sist*er* Elene orton hade done w*ith* moweng she wold not haue so good reyment as she has p*rese*ntibus tunc et ib*ide*m in p*r*olac*i*on*e* h*uius*mod*i* v*er*bo*rum* dict*i* deponen*tis* vnacu*m* dict*a* Katarina sorore sua

Ad iij$^{\mathit{tium}}$ ar*ticu*lu*m* this deponent sais *ya*t apon the same sondeye before recited in his deposicion to the thridde article aft*er* *ya*t he and his sist*er* w*ith* others came to the said meypoll in Bursleys grene the said Ione orton fonde her sist*er* Elene orton ther, and said that she had required Katarine Hogekinson to tell Katarine downe hyr dame, *ya*t iff she hade goten no more w*ith* lyeng vnd*er* m*r* Ric*hard* egerton then she hade (viz the said Elene hyr sist*er*) done with moweing she wold not haue hade so good reyment as she has, then the said Elene orton desired the forsaid Katarine hogekinson to tell hyr dame v*iz* Katarina donne from hyr *ya*t iff she hade goten no more w*ith* lyeng vnd*er* m*r* Ric*hard* egerton then she had done w*ith* moweing she wold not haue so good gownes as she hade…

pp 63–4* *(Deposition of Katharine Hogekinson of Bunbury, about age 18)*

…

Ad *secun*d*u*m et iij^{t} this deponent sais *ya*t abowt a fortnyght aft*er* mydsom*er* last past [as far as] apon a sondeye aft*er* evensonge, this deponent and hyr Brother Ric*hard* goeng to the Broke Benethe hyr fathers howse mett w*ith* Ione orton ther, wich dide aske this deponent [whed*er*] what hyr dame viz Katarine Dun*ne* came home from the weding to whom this deponent [as] answared *ya*t she mett [whom] hyr when she this deponent went on melking, then the said Ione orton Bide hyr tell hyr dame *ya*t iff she hade not goten more w*ith* lieng w*ith* *Sir* Ric*hard* eg*er*ton then hyr sist*er* Elene orton hade

19/ Bursleys: *Burwardsley*
31–2/ a fortnyght … sondeye: *probably 8 July 1548*
34/ what hyr dame: *for* what tyme hyr dame *(?)*
35/ Dun*ne*: *5 minims in* MS

done w*ith* moweng, she wold not haue hade so good reyment as she has, and aft*er*ward*es* this deponent w*ith* hyr Brother and the said Ione orton goeng to the grene in Bursleys | to pley att the Ball ther, theye founde ther Elene orton to whom Ione orton dide recite the forsaid word*es* y*a*t she required this deponent to tell hyr dame Katarine dun*ne*…

…

1613/14

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/11
f 38 *(26 February)*

Held for Nantwich deanery, at Nantwich parish church, before William Kinsey, cleric, dean, in the presence of William Dwarrhouse, notary public

…

Ide*m* con*tra* Robertu*m* Mosley/
p*resented* for gatheringe as yt is reported younge folkes to drinke and dance in his house vppon the Saboath day Quibus *(blank)*

1616

Great Sessions Presentments TNA: PRO CHES 24/113/3
single sheet* *(1 July)*

°to bee bound to appeare°

Richard Brock & Hugh Moyle of the towneship of Bunbury Iun*e* .9.10.11. enterteyned & mayntayned Peter Broome and his man Bearward*es* w*ith* their Bear⟨.⟩, the one lodging the Beares the oth*er* prouiding for them & the Bearewards as it ⟨..⟩ notoriously known⟨.⟩ & acknowledged, & this contr⟨…⟩ to the Statute in this case prouided. presented by Will*iam* Hinde Preach*er* of God*es* woord in the Parish of Bunbury.

°to be bound°
°Iun*e* 12 1616. namely the Bearward*es* man going to bayte his Beare°

Iohn Hilton Constable, being admonished of his duty in punishing rogues & vagabond*es*, & some poynted out before his eyes, did notw*ith*standing suffer them to escape vnpunished, contrary to the statute in that case prouided. presented by Will*iam* Hinde preacher.

3/ Bursleys: *Burwardsley*
5/ dun*ne*: *5 minims in MS*
23–4m/ to bee … appeare: *in a second hand*
30m/ to be bound: *in a second hand*
31–5m/ Iun*e* 12 … Beare: *in a third hand*

1618

Great Sessions Recognizance A TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4
single mb–single mb dorse* *(8 June)*

ad *respondendum* Me*morandum* quod octavo die Iunij ann*is* Regn*i* d*omi*ni n*ost*ri Iacobi dei gra*tia* Anglie Scotie ffraunc*ie* et Hib*er*nie Regis fidei defensoris etc Anglie ffraunc*ie* et Hib*er*nie decimo sexto et Scotie quinquagesimo primo Ioh*ann*es Bolande de wh⟨..⟩church in com*itatu* Salope bearwarde et Ric*ard*us Brocke de Bunburie in com*itatu* Cestr*ie* yeoman in p*ro*prijs p*er*sonis suis vener*unt* Coram me Georgio Spurstowe ar*migero* vno Iustic*iariorum* d*icti* d*omi*ni Regis ad pacem in d*ict*o com*itatu* assignat*orum* et cognoveru*n*t vtrumq*ue* eoru*m* sep*ar*atim debere d*icto* d*omi*no Regi decem libras legalis monet*e* Anglie de bonis et cattellis terris et ten*emen*tis suis fieri et levari ad opus et vsu*m* d*icti* d*omi*ni Regis her*edu*m et successoru*m* suoru*m* si p*re*fatus Ioh*ann*es Bolande deficerit in condicione indorsata |
The condic*i*one of this recognusance is such that if the w*i*thin bounden Iohn Boland be and p*er*sonally appeare before the king*es* ma*ies*t*ies* Iustic*es* of Assises at the ne⟨..⟩e great assise or ⟨.⟩eole deliu*er*ie to be holden w*i*thin this countye and then and there doe answere his contempte and abuse in baitinge of his bears at Bunburie in tyme of ye wakes being commanded the contrarie by Iohn Wytter head consta*ble* by vertue of warrant from his ma*ies*t*ies* Iustic*es* of Assises that then his Recognusanc*e* to be voyde or ells to remayne in force./

(signed) Georg Spurstow

Great Sessions Recognizance B TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4
single mb–single mb dorse *(19 June)*

ad *respondendum* Me*morandum* quod decimo nono die Iunij an*n*is Regn*i* d*omi*ni n*ost*ri Iacobi dei gra*tia* Anglie Scotie ffraunc*ie* et Hib*er*nie Regis fidei defenso*ris* etc: Anglie ffraunc*ie* et Hib*er*nie decimo sexto et Scotie quinquagesimo p*ri*mo, Ric*ard*us Brocke de Bunsburie in Com*itatu* Cestr*ie* yeoman in p*ro*pria p*er*sona sua venit cora*m* nobis Ioh*ann*e Done mil*ite* Ric*ard*e Brereton et Geor*ge* Spurstow ar*miger*is tribus Iustic*iarorum* d*icti* d*omi*ni Regis ad pacem in d*ict*o Com*itatu* assignat*orum* et cognovit se debere d*ict*o d*omi*no Regi quadraginta libris bone et legalis monete Anglie de bonis et cattellis terris et ten*emen*tis suis fieri et levari ad opus et vsu*m* d*icti* d*omi*ni Regis heredu*m* et successoru*m* suoru*m* si p*re*fatus Ric*ard*us brocke deficerit in condic*i*one indorsata. |
The condic*i*one of this Recognusanc*e* is such that yf the w*i*thin bounden Richard Brocke be and p*er*sonally appeare before the king⟨.⟩ ma*iesties*

Iustic*es* of Assises at the nex⟨.⟩ great Assise or geole deliu*ery* to beholden w*i*thin this countie and then and there doe answere to such informac*i*ons as are obiected against him by Iohn witter of Torpurlegh head constable of the hu*n*dred of Edsburie that then this recognusanc*e* to be voyde or ells to remayne in force

(signed) Georg Spurstow

High Constable's Presentments for Eddisbury Hundred

TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4

single sheet–single sheet verso*

...

It*em* I do p*re*sent Iohn Boland Belward for a drunckard.

It*em* I do p*re*sent the sayd Boland for a horible blasphemer./

It*em* [I pr*es* p*re*sent the sayd Boland]

It*em* I do p*re*sent the sayd Boland for a wandering rouge traveling w*i*th his beares from place to place contrary to the statute in that case p*ro*vided./ |

It*em* I do p*re*sent the sayd Boland for beating his beares at Bunbury [cont] at the time of wakes contrary to the orders made by S*i*r Tho*mas* Chamberlaine & S*i*r Henry Townsend knights Iustic⟨..⟩ of this county./

It*em* I doe p*re*sent the sayd Boland for resisting mee & thrusting mee on the brest at the same wakes after I had charged him in his Ma*ie*stie*s* name to goe w*i*th mee before a Iustice, having the constable & others w*i*th mee he nevertheles gaue mee many fowle word*es* wherevppon the company thrust vppon mee to keepe him from ^⌜goinge⌝ to a Iustice & had well neere murdered mee./

It*em* I do p*re*sent the sayd Boland for beating his bea[t]res at Bunbury at *Sai*nt Iames tyde at the Rusbearing there being never non before, ⌜contrary to kinge*s* booke./⌝

...

1620

Great Sessions Information TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/4

f [1] *(18 September)*

> Instructions ⟨....⟩rninge the gross misdemeano*u*rs of some vngodly perso⟨..⟩ in the towneshipp of Bunbury gatheringe to⟨..⟩ther

---

12/ I: *John Witter, high constable for Eddisbury Hundred*

36/ Bunbury: *5 minims for* un *in* MS

great multitud*es* of rude and disordered p⟨...⟩le on the
Sabboth day and at other tymes; ⟨...⟩trary to the express
warrant of his Ma*ies*ti⟨..⟩ Iustices of Assise published
before in the P⟨...⟩sh church of Bunbury for
preventing and rep⟨...⟩ing of all such
disordered meeting*es* & Assemblyes:

The first disordered Assembly was occasioned by Richard Coddingtoun who was putt in womans apparell on the Sabboth day in Iulie last, by Elizabeth Sym*me* and oth*eres*, at her father*es* house (a disordered Alehouse) w*hi*ch Elizabeth Sym*me* together w*i*th David Wilkinson (two persouns notoriously suspected of Adulterie) were thought to be the cheefe Authors both of atty[i]ringe the foresayd Coddingtoun in womans apparell, and vsinge him as a messenger w*i*th a great trayne of rude people tumultuously gaddinge after him from thence to the Church hill to bringe a present of Cheryes to the sayd Elizabeth where shee sate as Ladye of the game readie to receive them.

Witnesses hereof if they will testifie what they know
Thomas Sym*me*: Raph Dod

The second tumultuous Assembly was Iulie 25, occasioned by Thomas Broocke & Thomas Manninge in womens apparell dansing like women after one Peacocke a fidler. And by William Arrowsmyth and Richard Stubbs both of them in disguised apparell w*i*th naked sword*es* in theire hand*es* daunsing w*i*th those that were in womens apparell, a great multitude of disordered and rude people gadding a longe after them

Witnesses hereof [Richard Iu*nior*] Rob*er*t Iohnson, Richard Brocke Iu*nior*

The third disordered & riotous Assembly was August 5 Thomas Sym*me* and Margaret Bettely theld*er* cheife Authors of the same gathering together a greater multitude, by carrying about a great & large garland [for th] decked w*i*th flours ribband*es* tinsell & scarfes for the making whereof money was gathered: & Richard Vernon a piper hired, & soe riotinge from on towneshipp to an other, men and women promiscuously & lasiviously daunsed about Thomas Sym*me* (as about a maypole) bearinge vpp the garland.

Wittnesses hereof Raph Dod. Iohn Dutton./

1621

Great Sessions Presentments *B*   TNA: PRO CHES 24/116/2
single sheet*   *(3 September)*

...

°plegi*us per se*° we p*re*sent Robert Brocke [for Intertaining] of Bunbery for Intertanin[⟨.⟩]g a bearward & his Beares at the wakes

...

1628

AC *Mr Burghall's Providence Improved* BL: Additional MS 5851
f 52v*

v infra This Hind wrote the Life of John Bruen of Stapleford Esq*uier* & marryed his Sister. MS Note by Mr Allen on the opposite Page

1628. There was a remarkable Iudgment light upon a wicked debauched Fellow in Bunbury, one Robinson, a Bear-ward, who followed that unlawfull Calling, whereby God is much dishonoured, (especially at such Popish Festivals called Wakes) was cruelly rent in Peices by a Bear, & soe died fearfully. It is a true Proverb, In quo quisq*ue* peccat, in eo punitur. That worthy Man Mr Hind then preach'd at Bunbury, had not without Cause much inveighed against those Disorders, which were usually at Bunbury Wakes, & had threatened God's Iudgments against the same, but could not prevail utterly to remove them, tho' he endeavoured it to the uttermost. But in due Time God makes good his Word in the Mouth of his Ministers, to the Confusion of the Wicked. Oh! that Men would learn at last to be wise, before the heavy Wrath of God fall upon them.

...

1634

AC *Mr Burghall's Providence Improved* BL: Additional MS 5851
ff 54–4v* *(25 July)*

...

A Multitude of People being set under the Churchyard Wall, of the South Side of the Church in Bunbury, at [ye] the Time of their Wakes, to see a Bearbait, the Wall suddenly fell down upon them, | yet they were not hurt. They had the same Disorder the year following, & there happened the same Disaster, & the same Deliverance. Oh! the great Patience of Almighty God!

...

BYLEY

1612

Quarter Sessions Presentment CCALS: QJF 41/3/3
single mb *(6 October)*

Iurator*es* p*re*sentant p*ro* d*omi*no Rege sup*er* Sacr*amentu*m suu*m* Quod Ric*ard*us Smyth nup*er* de Byveley al*i*as Netheryatehowses in Com*itatu* p*re*dict*o* vrsarius, Anglice Bearward est et p*er* diu*er*sos Annos iam vltimos elapsos fuit Co*mmun*is vrsarius Anglice a Com*e*n Bearward Et quod

---

5–10m/ This Hind ... Esq*uier*: *William Hinde,* A Faithfull Remonstrance of The Holy Life and Happy Death, of John Bruen of Bruen-Stapleford *(London, 1641; Wing: H2063)*

p*re*dic*t*us Ric*ard*us vicesimo die Augusti Annis Regno*rum* d*omi*ni n*ost*ri Iacobi Reg*is* nunc Anglie ffrancie et hib*er*nie decimo et Scotie quadragesimo sexto et p*er* diu*er*sos Annos iam vltimos elapsos Custodivit et adhuc custodit apud Byveley al*i*as Netheryatehowses p*re*dict*am* tam diu*er*sos vrsos quam diu*er*sas vrsas et eosdem vrsos et vrsas in quam plurimis villis Mercator*ijs* et alijs locis publicis et apertis infra Com*itatum* p*re*dict*um* tam [diebus dominicis Anglice Sabboth dayes quam] diebus festivis [et] ⌜quam⌝ alijs diebus publice cu*m* Canib*us* Anglice Mastyves pugnare manutenuit Anglice hath bayted contra forma*m* diu*ersorum* statuto*rum* in huiusmodi Casu p*ro*viso*rum* et edito*rum*, et contra pacem d*ict*i d*omi*ni Reg*is* Corona*m* et dignitat*em* suas

CARDEN

1634

AC ***Mr Burghall's Providence Improved*** BL: Additional MS 5851
f 54*

...

One Phillip Cappur of Clutton being at a Bearbait in Carden, dy'd suddenly at that disordered Sport.

...

CHELFORD

1597

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: QJF 27/2/2
f [1]* *(7 May)*

Taken at Chelford before George Leycester and Henry Mainwaring

...

Roger Stathum of Chelford in the coun*ty* aforesaid husbandma*n* sworne & exa*min*ed, sayth that he this exa*min*ate beinge servant w*i*th w*illia*m ffallowes of ffallowes in the cou*nty* aforesaid gent*leman*, aboute Lent last was three yeares, & beinge together w*i*th the said ffallowes w*i*thout anie other Companie in the said ffallowes his grounde, they did see w*illia*m Burges of Chelford aforesaid gent*leman* in the said Burges grounde ou*er* against them, & then the said ffallowes said, yonder goes an arrant knave, & I would he weare knockt, & then this exa*min*ate answered him & sayd, that if he bore anie malice toward*es* him, it weare meetest for him to knocke him himselfe, or els to cause some ma*n* in his howse to do it, And then the said ffallowes said no I would have him to be conninglie knockt, & further said to this exa*min*ate that he beinge acquainted w*i*th one Richard Mettyre a pyper, one

40/ knockt: t *corrected from* e

henry davenport & one w*illia*m Gibson might p*ro*cure some of them to knocke him downe of his horse, some eveninge as the said Burges should come fro*m* Macclesfeild, for sayth he, he vseth to come late home fro*m* thence, & said that if they knockt out his braines he Cared not, & said further also, that if the would so doe, he would geve to him that did it xx^{tie} nobles, or x li., so he weare well knockt & said that if it weare knowen an other Countrey weare as good for them as this, And further that he this exa*min*ate did refuse to move or entreat anie of the said p*er*sons to the p*er*formance of the matters afore herein layd downe, & sayth that afterward*es* (aboute a twelve moneth as he remembreth) he did in way of other talke tell the said w*illia*m Gibson what a badd practyse he was moved by the said ffallowe to have layd for the said Burges, & sayth that he this exa*min*ate did not move him therevnto

f [1v]*

...

W*illia*m Gibson of Astle w*i*thin the cou*nty* of Chester Taylor sworne & exa*min*ed, sayth, that he this exa*min*ate aboute two yeares sythence, beinge workinge at Randle Stathum his howse father to the s*ai*d Roger Stathum, & the said Roger Stathum beinge then w*i*th this exa*min*ate & speaking amongest other things of w*illia*m Burges & w*illia*m ffallowes aforenamed, the said Roger Stathum told this exa*min*ate that the said w*illia*m ffallowes had great envye & malice toward*es* the said w*illia*m Burges, & that the said w*illia*m ffallowes had moved the said Roger Stathum to p*ro*cure ether Richard Mettyre & henry Davenport or some other such lyke fellowe of his acquaintance to lye in wayte for the said w*illia*m Burges to beate him, or to kill him, some eveninge when the said Burges should come home late fro*m* the m*ar*kett, & sayth that the said Roger Statham told him this exa*min*ate that the said w*illia*m ffallowes would geve to whomesoeu*er* should p*er*forme this, xx^{tie} nobles for his paynes, & helpe to gett him out of the Countrey, if the mater weare knowne

...

CHESTER

1194–5

Liber Luciani Bodl.: MS. Bodley 672
ff 88–8v*

...In una comes caput ciuiu*m* cu*m* sua curia· p*ro* more obseruat diuina sollempnia? in altera basilica· miraculu*m* prebetur? cu*m* muliebris sexus mirabilit*er* preliatur. Dormis dilectissima ciuitas ad spectaculum? negligentia

---

2/ knocke: e *corrected from* t

De colludio illo. ante ioh*anne*m filiu*m* reg*is* & fillipu*m* d*e* Warecestria.,

.Nota hoc.

tibi grauat palpebras oculor*um*. Curris frequent*er* aspicere. | canu*m* rictus· ferocias molosor*um*: q*ua*m horrende tauros lacerant & artus ursor*um*. Ante annos paucissimos erumpens ext*r*a muros p*r*osiluistj: o*mn*is etas· sexus· *con*dicio· cucurrit· uix anicula sub tecto remansit: spectari duos armis septos & eq*u*is impositos· q*u*adam loci planicie ut fident*er* dica*m* futuror*um* presagio *con*tendere· cu*m* p*ro* suo modo sine militari ex*er*cicio· tam*en* uirtute uesana cora*m* filio regis & quoda*m* altero de p*r*oceribu*s* regni· sine ludo luderent: & p*ro* laude labili multis intuentib*us*· actis calcarib*us* & calentib*us* animis decertarent. Ibi tam*en* iuxta votu*m* tuụ*m*· anglus preualuit· & emulu*m* insecutus artauit: ut maior*um* tumor creperet· & minor*um* tenor cresceret: plurib*us* illud spectantib*us*: prudentib*us*· aliud expectantib*us*. Set siue hec· magna signaueri*nt*. siue modica· siue nulla: uacante nugacitatis aspectu· confer te ad spectacula puritatis· pulcritudinis· pacis: pensa qua*m* pium· qua*m* preciosum· lucere in terris uitam angelor*um*....

...

f 112*

De p*ro*cessione q*ue* sit festis dieb*us* a clericis cestrie i*n*ter duas basilicas.

...Iustissime *igitur* atq*ue* pulcherrime apud n*ost*ram cestriam· p*ro* sua matre· matri d*omi*ni quasi refundens uicem· ⌜&⌝ su*a*e in chr*ist*o familie inspirauit ioh*anne*s baptista consuetudinem: ut festis temporib*us* atq*ue* d*omi*nicis dieb*us*· coris incedentib*us*· & uocib*us* dulcissimis resonantib*us*· ⌜&⌝ glorios*a*e uirginis ac d*omi*ni genit*r*icis eccl*esi*am· deuotissime satagant uisitare: & consuetis officiis p*ro* more uenerabilis cleri. ad et*er*ni regis gl*ori*am officiosissime salutare....

...

1199–1211

AC **_William Smith's Description of Chester_** Bodl.: MS. Rawlinson B. 282 ff 54–4v*

Erles of Chester.

Ranulph, the third of y*a*t name (Surnamed Blondeuill, of ye place in Powis, called in Latin Album Monasterium, which Some say, is oswestry, where he was borne) ... atcheeved many Enterpryces Against Lewillen Prince of Wales. But being once forced, to take ye Castle of Ruthlan, for his Refuge: He sent to Roger Hell (alias Lacy) Constable of Chester, to Come to his ayde. Which Roger, calling his ffrendes together: desyred them to make as many men as they could, & to go with hym. At whose Request Ralf Dutton, his Sonne

33–4/ Powis ... Monasterium: *Powys, Wales*
34/ Oswestry: *Oswestry, Shropshire*
36/ Ruthlan: *Rhuddlan, Flintshire, Wales*

in Law, being a Lusty youth: Assembled all ye players & musicians in the Cittie (for this chaunced at ye ffayre tyme) And went forth, w*ith* ye said Constable against ye walshmen, who fledd vppon the sight of such a nomber of people. |

Ranulph .3. Erle of Chester

The Erle being delyu*er*ed out of Danger: granted to his said Constable, dyvers freedomes & priveleges, w*ith*in the Cittie, and in other places. And granted to ye sayd Ralf Dutton: The Rule & ordering of all the musicians, within the Countie, w*hich* his heires enioy, even at this day.

...

AC ***Peter Leycester's Historical Antiquities*** CCALS: DLT/B 3 (Tabley Liber C) ff 143–4v*

Conc*er*ninge the auntient Custome of the ridinge before all the minstrells in Chesshire on the ffeast of St Iohn Baptist at Chester &c. Belonginge to the heires of Dutton de Dutton in the same County.

As touchinge the originall Institution of the power & authorite ouer ye whole minstrellrie in Chesshire, I finde that when Randle surnamed Blundevill Earle of Chester was beseiged by the welshmen at Rut‸⌜h⌝lent Castle, about the [end of the] ⌜begining of K*ing* Iohn's⌝ Raigne [of K*ing* Henry the second], The said Earle sent vnto his Constable of Chesshire (who was ye Baron of Halton) that hee should come & bringe what ayde hee could i*m*mediately to succour him in this his distresse: The Constable vpon this message (for it was then the faire-tyme at Chester) gathered forthwith all the merry p*er*sons hee could meete with in the Citty of Chester, As Coblers, ffidlers, merry Companions, Whores, & such routish Company, & marched speedily with that his p*ro*miscuous Army consistinge both of men & weomen towards the said Castle where the Earle was beseiged: The welsh seeinge A great multitude co*m*minge, left the seige & fledd: The Earle thus deliuered cometh backe with his Constable to Chester, & for his service graunteth him power ouer all kind of such Loose p*er*sons residinge within the County of Chesshire: The said Constable passed it ouer vnto Hugh de Dutton, whose heires enioye it at this day

Circa A*n*num d*omi*ni 1186. for Iohn Constable of Chesshire dyed in the holy land 13t: Ric: the .1. Hoveden: °*page* 685./°

The originall Deed of ye Constable of Chesshire vnto Dutton remayninge in ye hand*es* of ye heire of Dutton de Dutton.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Iohannes Constabularius Cestriæ dedi

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21/ Rut‸⌜h⌝lent: *Rhuddlan, Flintshire, Wales*

Leccator signifies A ryoutous debauched *per*son, Aroaringe boy, A Taverne Hunter °A Letcher, vnde nomen Leccator.°

et concessi et hac præsenti chartâ meâ confirmavi Hugoni de Dutton et heredibus suis magistratum omnium Leccatorum et meretricum totius Cester-shiriæ, sicut liberius illum magistratum teneo de Comite: Salvo Iure meo mihi et hæredibus meis. His Testibus Hugone de Boydele, Alano fratre eius, Petro de Go*n*enet, Liulfo de Twamlowe Ada de Dutton Gilberto de Astun, Randulfo de Kingesley Hamone de Bordington, Alano de Waleie, Will*el*mo filio Richardi, Martino Angevin, Will*el*mo [de ⟨…⟩] ˄⌈Carill⌉˄, Galfrido et Robin filijs meis, Bletheris, Herbard de Waleton, Alano Mulinton, Galfrido de Dutton.
David Powell in his History ˄⌈pa*ge* 296⌉ is vtterly mistaken: whome Cambden in his Britta*n*niâ Tit: Chesshire seemeth to followe: for both these make Raph de Dutton to bee the only man in deliueringe the Earle of Chester & that the Earle gaue this power *im*mediately vnto him: as for ye name of Raph de Dutton; There was neuer any such man in ye right line of Dutton de Dutton; nor I beleiue in all the oblique line w*hi*ch liued about that tyme: [Excepte Radulpho Dispensatore: which Ralph although hee was originally descended from Hadard, yet hee was called Dispensator from his office w*hi*ch hee had vnder ye Earle of Chester & not by the name of Dutton: whose posteritie wholly retayned the name of Spenser by Contraction from the Latine word Dispensator, which as I said before was A name of office; And from him is lineally descended, the Lord Spencers a family flourishinge at this day.] |
Secondly as for the *im*mediate graunt of ye Earle to Dutton you see the originall deed aboue named doth evidently prove the contrary: Howbeit I deny not but that Hugh de Dutton (who hath his privilidge giuen him from the Constable) might *per*happs haue accompanied the aforenamed Iohn Constable of Chesshire in that service for the Earle, & for his reward had this graunt from the Constable, salvo Iure suo &c: as it is in the Deed: (a)

2ly (a) But Dutton was Steward of Halton vnder the Baron

[There is one other mistake concerninge the Custome w*hi*ch I haue mett withall, & that is an auntient Parchment Rowle remayninge in ye hands of Thomas Starkey of Stretton in the County of Chester Esq*uire* wherein is contayned the descents of the Barons of Halton, & is A monnument very truly & accurately drawne in euery point, saveinge the mistake of the man touchinge the originall of this Custome, wherein Roger Constable of Chesshire is there named to haue rescued the Earle in stead of Iohn his [father] ⌈sonne⌉]
And thus much of the originall Institution: Now followeth ye manner of the solemnite of it as it is vsed at this day: vizt. 1642. Iune the: 24th
ffirst the lord of Dutton, or his Deputy, rideth vpp w*i*th many Gentlmen of his frends & acquaintance (haueinge A Banner displayed before him[)] & A Drumm & trumpett) vntill they come a litle aboue the Eastgate in the citty of Chester, where there is Proclamacion made in the streete before the said heire, or his Deputy, sittinge on Horsbacke, as followeth:

7/ Robin: *corrected from* Roberto *(?)*

8/ Bletheris: *for* Blethero

The forme of the proclamac*i*on.

Vnder the Royall grace of the Kings most Excellent ma*ie*stie & his most Ho*nora*ble Counsell, The right Ho*nora*ble Robert Viscount Killmurrey, Lord Leader Conducter & (vnder his highnes) Protecter of all & euery music*i*ons and Minstrells whosoeuer, either resident or resortinge w*i*thin or to ye County Pallatine of Chester, And w*i*thin or to the County of ye Citty of Chester, By vertue & authoritie of the auntient vse custome preheminence and spetiall royalltie of the Predecessors of the Ma*n*nor of Dutton, straightly chargeth & co*m*maundeth all & euery the said Music*i*ons & Minstrells & others whosoever, acknowledginge, vseinge, & p*ro*fessinge the noble art worthy science & high misterie of musique & minstrellzie w*i*thin the said Countyes, or either of them, To approach this p*rese*nte place and attend this p*rese*nte Proclamac*i*on, And p*rese*ntely heere to drawe forthe their sundry Instruments of Musique & Minstrellzie, And to play heere before ye said Robert Viscount Kilmurrey or his Deputy, heere p*rese*nte vnto the accustomed place in dutifull manner & order customablie vsed by his Predicessors before tyme, soe longe that the memory of man can not Witnes to the contrary, which royalltie hath beene allwayes annexed & resigned to the said auntient Predecessors of the mannor of Dutton, & now come vnto the said Robert Viscount Killmurrey in the right of Dame Elinour now wife of the said Robert Viscount Killmurrey, & sole daughter & heire of Thomas Dutton, late of Dutton aforesaid, Esq*uire* deceased, & her heires, as p*ar*cell & Porc*i*on of her inheritance, And in like good dutifull order to retorne from the said place, playinge vpon their said severall Instruments vnto the Courthouse, And there to make their severall apparances: Also to doe all other such Ho*m*mages, duties, & services, as by vertue thereof belongeth to the aforesaid Court of ye said Robert | Viscount Killmurrey: And from thence in like good order, playinge vpon their said sundry Instruments to his Lodginge, & not to dep*ar*te without License, This omitt you nott, as you will at yo*u*r p*er*ills avoyde the displeasure of the aforenamed Robert Viscount Killmurrey, the rebuke of the Court, forfeiture of your Instruments, & imprisonment of your Bodyes. God save the Kings ma*ies*ty, his most H*onora*ble Counsell, And the Lord of Dutton, And send vs Peace. Amen.

The Proclamac*i*on beinge ended, the said heire of Dutton or his Deputy rideth down in like solemne ma*n*ner vnto St Iohns Church in Chester, all the minstrells attendinge & playinge on their severall Instruments before him. As soone as they come vnto the said Church of St Iohns, the said heire or his Deputie allighteth from his Horse, & goeth into the said Church, & all the Gentlemen likewise, which in good will accompany him, seatinge themselues in the Chauncell thereof; In which place A sett of the Lowd Musique vpon their Knees playeth A solemne Lesson or Two; which ended

they arise vpp with this congratulation, God blesse the Kinge, And the heire
of Dutton. And soe ye deputy retorneth in like ma*nn*er as hee came, vnto the
place where the Court is kept. Assoone as hee is come hee sitts awhile to heare
the Court called, which in the Court Rolles is stiled, Curia Minstralciæ &c.
And then the Steward of the Court calleth the suitors one by one, and after
the apparance made impannelleth A Iurie, & soe p*ro*ceedeth to his charge,
1. which consisteth of Three Heads, ffirst that if they knowe of any Treason
2. against the Kinge or Prince, in that Court they ought to present it. Secondly
if any hath exercised his minstrellzie without the License of the Lord of this
Court, or by any other License than from the Lord of this Court, it is heere
presentable: And whether any ‸⌜of them⌝ have p*ro*phaned ye Sabboth by
playinge vpon that day, vnlesse they have had speciall License for it from the
Lord of this Court or his Steward. and whether any ‸⌜of them⌝ hath beene
3. drunke, or the like. Thirdly whether they haue heard any scandalous words
tendinge to the preiudice of the heire of Dutton, & by whome, The Iury is
heere to present it; As also to present the default of all such Suitors as ought
to haue appeared that day &c.

The Charge being given the Deputie goeth out of the Court to dinner, which is provided for him, & what Gentlemen hee shall please to invite, At the close of all; after dinner (when the Court is ended) One of the order deliuereth vp on his knee the Pole or Launce whereon the Banner was carryed vnto the Deputy, which is his due, soe that euery yeare there is A new Launce, But the Banner is preserued. Note also that euery one exerciseinge the Art of Musique in this County, doth or ought yearely to renewe his License, for which he payeth vnto the Steward 02 s. 02 d. And that those who are vpon the Iury the yeare before doe the next yeare after weare Long Linnen Towells over their Shoulders in manner of A scarfe, to signifie they were elected on the Iury – Et sic de cæteris./ |

So it was 1642, but now 1666 the Steward takes 2 s. 6 d. for each Licence

This is the manner as it is solempnized at this day, yet p*er*happs in part altered from the ffirst Institution in point of Ceremony; for I belieue auntiently only A Court was kept for the preservinge of the Authoritie, and noe more adoe

In the Clayme of Dutton de Dutton: 14: Hen*ry* 7 I finde it thus
Recorded, vpon A quo warranto brought against him.

Laurentius Do*mi*nus de Dutton clamat quod omnes Minstrelli infra Civitatem Cestriæ, et infra Cestriam manentes, vel officia ibidem exercentes, debent convenire coram ipso vel Seneschallo suo apud Cestriam, ad ffestum Nativitatis *Sanc*ti Ioh*annis* Baptistæ annuatim et dabunt sibi ad dictum ffestum Quatuor Lagenas vini, et vnam Lanceam: et insuper quil[l]ibet eorum dabit sibi Quatuor Denarios. et vnum obolum ad dictum ffestum, et habere de qualibet Meritrice infra Comitatum Cestriæ, et infra Cestriam manente et officium

fowre bottles of wine/

suum exercente, Quatuor Denarios p*er* Annum ad ffestum prædictum &c. Et etiam quo warranto clamat habere pro se et haeredibus suis, Liberam Warrenam in Villis suis de Dutton, Weston, Preston, Leigh, et Berterton in Comitatu prædicto &c.

another quo warranto ag*ains*t Laurence Dutton and (.)ten his brother 27 Ed*ward* 3

Copia Concordat*a* cum originali in Scaccario
Cestriæ de Recordo remanente

Lastly Notandum est, That whereas ffidlers are by Acte of Parliament construed to bee in the Condic*io*n of Roagues and Vagabonds: 39: Eliz*abeth* Cap*itulum* 4. Yet there is A speciall Proviso in that Acte, whereby those authorized by Iohn Dutton of Dutton Esq*uire* are exempted, as belonginge to his auntient Custome and privilidge

ffinis.

AC ***Peter Leycester, Historical Antiquities*** Wing: L1943
pp 141–2

...

®Lib*er* C. Fol*ium* 85.b.

This Randle among the many Conflicts he had with the Welsh, as I find in an ancient Parchment Roll, written above two hundred Years ago, wherein the Barons of Halton with their Issue were carefully collected, was distressed by the Welsh, and forced to retreat to the Castle of Rothelent in Flintshire, about the Reign of King John, where they Besieged him: He presently sent to his Constable of Cheshire, Roger Lacy, sirnamed Hell, for his fierce Spirit, that he would come with all speed, and bring what Forces he could towards his Relief. Roger having gathered a tumultuous Rout of Fidlers, Players, Coblers, debauched persons, both Men and Women, out of the City of Chester (for 'twas then the Fair-time in that City,) marcheth immediately towards the Earl. The Welsh perceiving a great multitude coming, raised their Siege and fled. The Earl coming back with his Constable to Chester, gave him Power over all the Fidlers and Shoemakers in Chester, in reward and memory of this Service. The Constable retained to himself and his Heirs, the Authority and Donation of the Shoemakers, but conferred the Authority of the Fidlers and Players on his Steward, which then was Dutton of Dutton; whose Heirs enjoy the same Power and Authority over the Minstralcy of Cheshire even to this day; who in memory hereof keep a yearly Court upon the Feast of St. John Baptist at Chester, where all the Minstrels of the County and City are to attend and Play before the Lord of Dutton: And none ought to use their Minstralcy but by Order and Licence of that Court, under the Hand and Seal of the Lord Dutton or his Steward, either within Cheshire or

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22/ Rothelent in Flintshire: *Rhuddlan, Flintshire, Wales* the City of Chester. And to this day the Heirs of Dutton, or their Deputies, do in a solemn manner yearly upon Midsummer-day, being Chester Fair, Ride attended through the City of Chester, with all the Minstralcy of Cheshire playing before them on their several Instruments, to the Church of St. Johns, and at the Court renew their Licences yearly.

I cannot here pass by the gross mistake of Powel on the Welsh History, pag*e* 296. whom Cambden in his Britania seems to follow; where Raufe de Dutton is said to have gathered this Army, and to have rescued the Earl: whereupon he had the Power over the Minstralcy granted immediately from the Earl. |

For first, there was never any such an Heir of Dutton of Dutton, that was called Rafe de Dutton. But I shall, for more satisfaction, transcribe the Original Deed made to Dutton, remaining among the Evidences of that Family, which now by a Daughter and Heir is devolved to the Lord Gerard of Gerards Bromley in Staffordshire.

*It is either thus, as I have put it; or, Galfrido & Roberto Filiis meis, Blethero Herberd de Waleton, &c. I leave it to the Reader to judge.†

Lib*er* C. fol*ium* 139.

Sciant præsentes & futuri, quod ego Johannes Constabularius Cestriæ, dedi & concessi & hac præsenti Chartâ meâ confirmavi, Hugoni de Dutton, & Hæredibus suis, Magistratum omnium Leccatorum & Meretricum totius Cestershiriæ, sicùt liberiùs illum Magistratum teneo de Comite; Salvo jure meo mihi & Heredibus meis. Hiis Testibus, Hugone de Boidele, Alano Fratre ejus, Petro de Goenet, Liulfo de Twamlow, Ada de Dutton, Gilberto de Aston, Radulfo de Kingsley, Hamone de Bordington, Alano de Waleie, Alano de Mulinton, Willielmo Filio Ricardi, Martino Angevin, Willielmo de Savill, Galfrido & Roberto Filliis meis Bletheris,* Herdberd de Waleton, Galfrido de Dutton.

In which Deed it is, John Constable of Cheshire (not the Earl of Chester) grants to Hugh de Dutton (not to Raufe de Dutton) the Authority over all the Letchers and Whores of all Cheshire; Salvo jure meo. So as the Right was the Constables, which he held of the Earl; but now transfers it over to Hugh Dutton, about the end of King John's Reign. By the ancient Roll it should seem Roger Lacy rescued the Earl, and now John his Son transferrs this Power to Dutton: Which Original Grant mentioneth nothing of the Rule of Fidlers or Minstrels; but ancient Custom hath now brought it onely to the Minstrelsie: For anciently I suppose the Rout which the Constable brought to the Rescuing of the Earl, were debauched Persons drinking with their Sweet-hearts in the Fair, Fidlers, and such loose kind of Persons as he could get; which tract of time hath reduced onely to the Minstrels.

I find in the Records at Chester, inter placita 14 Hen*rici* 7. a Quo Warranto brought against Laurence Dutton of Dutton, Esq; why he claimed all the Minstrels of Cheshire, and in the City of Chester, to meet before him at Chester yearly, at the Feast of Saint John Baptist, and to give unto him at the said Feast quatuor Lagenas Vini, & unam Lanceam; that is, four Bottles of Wine, and a Lance: and also every Minstrel to pay unto him at the said Feast four Pence half-penny: And why he claimed from every Whore in Cheshire, and in the City of Chester, Officium suum exercente, four Pence to be paid yearly at the Feast aforesaid, &c. Whereunto he pleaded Prescription.

And whereas by the Statute of 39 Eliz*abeth* cap*itulum* 4. Fidlers are declared to be Rogues; yet there is an especial Proviso in the Statute, for the exempting of those in Cheshire, Licensed by Dutton of Dutton, as belonging to his ancient Custom and Privilege: So that the Fidlers of Cheshire, Licensed by the Heirs of Dutton of Dutton, are no Rogues. But enough of this.

...

p 251

...

®See the Deed at large supra pag*ina* 142. made about the end of King Johns Reign, or the beginning of Henry the Third.

He had also the Magistracy, or Rule and Authority, over all the Letchers and Whores of all Cheshire, granted unto him and his Heirs, by John Constable of Cheshire, and Baron of Halton, as freely as the said John held the same of the Earl of Chester; saving the Right of the said John to him and His Heirs: Which are the very words of the Deed, onely rendred by me in English: Lib*er* C. fol*ium* 154. h. So that he holds it, as it were, under the Baron of Halton, who reserves his own Right by a special Reservation.

This Privilege over such loose Persons was granted first unto Roger Lacy Constable of Cheshire, under Richard the First, by Randle, sir-named Blundevill, Earl of Chester, in memory of his good Service done to the Earl in raising the Siege of the Welsh-men, who had beset the Earl in his Castle of Rothelent in Flintshire: For the Constable having got a promiscuous Rabble of such like Persons together, and Marching towards the said Castle, the Welsh (supposing a great Army to be coming) raised their Siege, and fled: So saith the ancient Roll of the Barons of Halton: Lib*er* C. fol*ium* 85. b. Monasticon Anglicanum, 2 Pars, pag*ina* 187. This Roll saith, the Rabble consisted of Players, Fidlers, and Shoe-makers. The Deed here toucheth Letchers and Whores. The Privilege and Custom used at this day by the Heirs of Dutton, is over the Minstrelsie and Common Fidlers; none being suffered to Play in this County, without the Licence of the Lord of Dutton, who keeps a Court at Chester yearly, on Midsomer-day, for the same, where all the Licenced Minstrels of Cheshire do appear, and renew their Licences: So that the Custom seems to

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18/ He: *Hugh de Dutton*
29/ Rothelent in Flintshire: *Rhuddlan, Flintshire, Wales*

have been altered to the Fidlers, as necessary Attendants on Revellers in Bawdy-houses and Taverns.

And it is to be observed, That those Minstrels which are Licensed by the Heirs of Dutton of Dutton, within the County Palatine of Chester, or the County of the City of Chester, according to their ancient Custom, are exempted out of the Statute of Rogues, 39 Eliz*abeth* cap*itulum* 4.

…

1268–9

A ***Mayors List 8*** BL: Additional MS 11335
f 22v* *(14 October–11 October)*

…

The old and Antient Whitson playes played in this city of Chester were first made Englished and published by one Randall Higden a monke of Chester Abbey, and sett forth and played at, and by the Citizens of chester charge In the time of S*ir* Iohn Arneway Knight, and Major of Chester Anno 1268 the last time they were played was Anno D*omi*ni 1571 mr Iohn Hankey then Major of Chester.

…

1269–70

AC ***Mayors List 6*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 91v* *(11 October–10 October)*

…

°Randle monke of Chester dyed 31 E*dward* 3 1357 w*hi*ch is longe after & this is not he°

In this yeare Whitson playes were invented in Chester by one Rondoll Higden a monke in the Abby of Chester, and afterwards set forth in action at the cost and charges of the cittizens which was great charges, and note yat this monke was a pious man, and a great writer in yat Abby as his bookes yet shew, in great devotion he and discretion he published ye storie of ye bible, yat ye simple in their owne language might undestand./

…

1294–5

Inquisition Post Mortem for Sir Hugh de Dutton TNA: PRO C 133/70 (1)
mb [2] *(6 June)*

Inqui*sicio* f*act*a ap*u*d Cestr*iam* coram will*el*mo de Beychull Decano Eccl*es*ie *sanct*i Ioh*ann*is Cestr*ie* tenente locum Reginaldi de Grey Iustici*ario* Cestr*ie* die lune p*roxim*a post f*estu*m *sanct*i Bonefacij anno regni Regis Edwardi vicesimo t*er*cio. p*re*sente Hugone de Busheyes Eschaetore d*omi*ni Regis in

---

25–30m/ Randle … he: *in* RH II*'s hand*

30/ undestand: *for* understand

Cestris*iria* ad hoc vocato p*er* sacr*amentu*m will*elm*i de wystaneston. Rob*ert*i de Beesty. Ric*ard*i de Croyton. Gilb*ert*i Dudesin. Rog*er*i de Opurstowe. will*elm*i de Troghford. Rog*er*i de Moldeworth. Hugon*is* Cl*er*ici de Crystelton. will*elm*i de Meynweryng. will*elm*i de Bostoke. Hugon*is* le Soer.... Dicunt eciam q*uo*d Hugo de Dutton tenuit die ⌜q*uo*⌝ obiit villam de weston cum p*er*tin*encijs* de Henr*ico* de Lascy Comite Lincoln*ensis* p*er* homagiu*m* & s*er*uiciu*m*. inueniendi vnu*m* ho*min*em cu*m* vno equo & vno haub*er*getto in ex*er*citu wallie t*empor*e guerre. p*er* q*u*adraginta dies p*ro*priis sumptib*us*.... Et id*e*m hug*o* h*ab*uit aduocariam o*mni*um Menestrallor*um* & meretriciu*m* in Cestris*iria* de tenura ip*s*ius com*itis*. ⟨...⟩ annu*m* vnam sixtera*m* vini & una*m* lanceam....

1327–8

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 23v* *(16 October–14 October)*

The whitson playes . first made by one don Randall ⌜°heggenett°⌝ A moonke, of Chester Abbey °who was thrise at Rome before he could obtayn leaue of the pope to haue them in the English Tonge°

...

1328–9

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 23v* *(14 October–13 October)*

...

The Whitson playes. played openlye . in pageantes by the Cittizins of Chester . in whitson weeke

...

A ***Mayors List 10*** BL: Additional MS 29779
f 11v* *(14 October–13 October)*

...

The whtson playes, invented and made by A worthye man. Called [don] Randall heggnett ⌜°higgden°⌝ A monke of Chester Abbey

...

16/ heggenett: *in RH II's hand*
17–18/ who ... Tonge: *in RH II's hand*
26/ whitson weeke: *11–17 June 1329*
32/ whtson: *for* whitson
33/ higgden: *in RH II's hand*

1329–30

A ***Mayors List 10*** BL: Additional MS 29779
f 11v* *(13 October–12 October)*

…

In this yeare the whitson playes played openlye three dayes in whitson weeke by the Cittizins of Chester

…

1397–8

AC ***Mayors List 6*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 100* *(12 October–11 October)*

…

christmas watch & 24 senior or Alderm*en* named . 25 . 271.

…

1400–1

Thomas Arundel's Metropolitical Visitation of St John's Collegiate Church
Lambeth Palace Library: Registrum Thomas Arundel I
ff 484–4v*

…

®¶ Sup*er* augmentacione predicta

Thomas &c. Pridem in visitacione n*os*tra metropo*liti*ca in eccl*es*ia Collegiata sancti Iohannis Cestrie lich*feldensi* dioc*ese* nup*er* ex*er*cita. pio considerantes intuitu. exilitatis stipendia. que chorales vicarij in dicta eccl*es*ia Collegiata p*ro* dote & sustentacione congrua suscep*er*unt. ac on*er*a & labores quib*us* circa diuinu*m* officium in dicta eccl*es*ia die ac nocte studiose & laudabilit*er* insistebant. porcionem eor*um* de bonis ips*i*us Collegij. ad su*m*mam decem librar*um* p*er* manus decani eiusdem. qui p*ro* temp*or*e fu*er*it. de oblacionibus in dicta eccl*es*ia p*ro*uenientib*us* ad ymaginem sancte crucis distribuend*am* augmentauimus. p*otes*tatem nobis sp*eci*alit*er* res*er*uand*o* de mora & conu*er*sacionis gestura ips*or*um vicarior*um* ordina*cione* plenaria disponend*i* p*ro*ut in l*itte*ris n*ost*ris inde confectis plenius continet*ur*. Et q*u*amq*u*am sacris canonib*us* designet*ur* q*uo*d a vulgari vita seclusi a mundanis voluptatibus. se clerici abstinerent. nec int*er*essent spectaculis neq*ue* pompis fug*erent*q*ue* conuiuia. necnon sobria queq*ue* colerent & pudica. sub vno insup*er* tecto dormirent & co*m*mederent in co*mmuni*. quidam tamen vicarij dicte eccl*es*ie ex n*ost*ra augmentacione h*uius*mod*i*. lucrum sectari & refutare on*er*a cupientes. postpo*si*to dei timore. & honestate cl*er*icali. lasciuijs & insolencijs pocius intendunt q*u*am lacrimis & oracionib*us* aut pijs & deuot*is* op*er*ibus p*ro* mitigacione ire altissimi p*ro* pecc*at*is. dum diebus solempnibus. q*uando* deus ip*s*e deuocius & solempnius honorari deberet a fidelib*us*. contemptu h*abi*tu

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5/ whitson weeke: *27 May–2 June 1330*

& incessu. p*er* vicos & plateas. ac sepius p*er* tabernas discurrunt & sepius ex*er*cent turpia & inhonesta. que subticemus ad presens. sine v*er*ecundia & pudore. vnde p*re*missis & alijs p*er*iculis & scandalis que in hac p*ar*te timemus. salubrit*er* occurrere cupientes. Tibi firmit*er* iniungendo p*re*cipimus & mandam*us* quatinus om*n*ib*us* & singulis vicarijs sup*ra*dictis. ac alijs quor*um* in p*re*missis int*er*esse pot*er*it intimetis. q*uo*d horis debit*is* & canonicis. ac p*ro*cessionib*us* in dicta eccl*es*ia Collegiata fiend*is* diebus d*omi*nicis & festiuis in h*abi*tu suo int*er*sint & officia*n*t hu*m*ilit*er* sicut decet. necnon abstinendo a carnis illecebris & insolencijs sup*ra*dictis. in vna domo comedant et sine | sinistre suspicionis vicio p*ro*ut moris est Collegiator*um* dormiant sub clausura. & conuenientes in choro ad diuin*um* s*er*uiciu*m* ante completam p*er*feccionem eiusdem. sine decani vel p*ro*tunc p*re*sidentis l*icen*cia & assignata causa racionabili non receda*n*t post binam monicionem decani vel ip*s*ius locum tenentis. Alioquin porcione n*ost*re augmentacionis p*re*dicte. quiscumq*ue* faciens in contrarium. quatenus sibi debet*ur*. ex ordinacione p*re*dicta careat ip*s*o facto. decano ib*ide*m existenti p*ro* tempore sub pena suspensionis. districcius inhibentes. ne cuiq*u*am non p*ar*enti p*re*senti n*ost*re iniunccioni. quicquid de Augmento p*re*dicto soluat vel satisfieri p*er*mittat nobis aut n*ost*ris successoribus inconsultis. dat*um* in man*er*io n*ost*ro de lamheth. xviij^{o} die mensis Augusti. Anno d*omi*ni mill*es*imo CCCC^{mo}. primo. Et n*ost*re t*ra*nslacionis anno quinto.

...

1421–2

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Company Memorandum

CCALS: ZG 7/23
single sheet* *(20 April)*

Memorand*um* q*uo*d discordia & lis suborte fuerunt int*er* les Irenmong*ers* Ciuitatis Cestr*ie* ex vna p*ar*te & Carpentarios eiusdem Ciuitatis ex alt*era* p*ar*te vtrum vna p*ar*s aut alia h*ab*eret omn*es* les fflecchers. Bowers. String*ers*. Coup*ers* & Turno*urs* eiusdem Ciuitatis ad ip*s*os auxiliand*um* in luso Corp*oris* chr*ist*i eiusdem Ciuitatis Tandem ex assensu vtriusq*ue* p*ar*tis in pleno Portmoto tent*o* apud Cestr*iam* die lune p*roxima* post Claus*um* Pasche Anno regni Regis Henr*ici* quinti post conquestum decimo coram Ioh*ann*e hope maiore Ciuitatis p*redict*e Inquisic*io* capta fuit ad sciend*um* veritatem de mat*er*ijs p*redict*is vtrum vni p*ar*ti aut alt*eri* ⟨...⟩gi deberent nec ne videl*ice*t *per* sacr*amentu*m Io*hann*is de hatton senioris. Will*elm*i hope. Ric*ard*i Weston. Alex*andr*i Hennebury. Ade de Wotton. Ioh*ann*is de hatton iunioris. Rob*er*ti

---

34/ die lune ... Pasche: *20 April 1422*
37/ ⟨...⟩gi: *for* iniungi *(?)*

Wolley Ric*ard*i Lynakre. Will*elm*i de Pykton Thome de hellesby Ioh*ann*is William & Ric*ard*i Thomworth. Iur*atorum*. Qui dicunt sup*er* sacr*amentu*m suu*m* q*uo*d p*re*d*ic*ti ⟨…⟩chers. Bowers. String*er*s Coup*er*s & Turno*ur*s non debent nec tenent*ur* ludere nec esse participes cum vna p*ar*te nec cum alia des Irenmong*er*s siue Carpentarijs p*re*d*ic*tis in Paginis suis lusi Corp*or*is chr*ist*i p*re*d*ic*ti set dicunt q*uo*d tenent*ur* sustentare p*er* semet ip*s*os Paginam suam p*ro*priam eiusdem lusi videlicet de fflagellac*ion*e Corp*or*is chr*ist*i cum suis p*er*tin*encijs* *secun*dum Originale inde factum vsq*ue* ad Crucifixionem eiusdem Ie*su* chr*ist*i p*ro*ut in d*ict*o Originale continet*ur*. et q*uo*d p*re*d*ic*ti Irenmong*er*s debent Sustentare lusum de Crucifixione vt p*re*d*ictu*m ⟨…⟩stus ⟨..⟩us & p*re*d*ic*ti Carpentar*ij* Paginam suam *secun*dum Originale p*re*d*ictu*m In cuius rei testimoniu*m* huic p*re*senti Inquisic*ion*i p*re*d*ic*tus Maior sigillu*m* officij sui Maioratus p*re*d*ic*ti apponi fecit. dat*um* die & Anno p*re*d*ic*tis

1422–3

Sheriffs' Rolls CCALS: ZSR 149
single mb*

…

Rad*ulph*us Wem*me* & Ioh*ann*es Troghford collectores Artis textor*um* Ciuitat*is* Cestr*ie* quer*untur* de Ioh*ann*e Silcok ⟨…⟩ Et vnde quer*untur* q*uo*d eis deb*et* vj d. ad eor*um* int*er*lud*ium* defend*ens*. cognov*it* debit*um* die p*re*dict*o*

…

1429–30

Pentice and Portmote Court Rolls CCALS: ZMR 4/85
single mb *(22 May)*

Held at Chester before John Walsh, mayor

…

plait a remembr*er* q*e* le lvndy p*ro*schein ap*re*s le fest de saint dunstan lan de regne n*ost*re t*re*ssouer*e*in *sieur* le Roy henry sisme puis le conquest septyme deuant Iohn le Walssh Mair de la Citee de Cestr*e* lez viscountz & xxiiij aldermen de dit Citee: de lassent agrement & bone volunte de Richard de hawardyn & Richard de Brogheford Seneschalles dez artes de Weu*er*s Walkers Chaloners & shermen de la dit Citee sur vne peticiou*n* en plein Portemote faitz p*ar* lez ditz Maier viscountz ⟨.⟩ xxiiij aldermen ⟨…⟩ ordeigne fust estable & assentira durer perpetaute q*e* chescun p*er*sone de q*ue*le astate ou condicion qil q*e* ascun dez ditz artes vse ou occup⟨…⟩ denz le dit Citee soit contributory ⟨…⟩ ou face paier tout ⟨…⟩ des quele il est ou s*er*ra assesse p*ar* lez seneschalles dez ditz artes p*ur* le temps esteauntz de paier A lez costages & expenses ⟨…⟩

30–1/ le lvndy … septyme: *23 May 1429*

lumeir de n*ostr*e dame sancte marie & de corpus chr*ist*i & al Iwe de Corpus chr*ist*i & a lun & lautre de eux a toutz & achescun fe⟨...⟩ quil auendra le dit lumier estre porte ou le dit Iwe estre fait & q*e* celui q*i* ne voiet la so*m*me a quele il est assesse p*ar* lez ditz seneschalles paier deinz moyse ⟨...⟩ le dit assesse fiat qil encourge le forfa⟨...⟩ payne de xiij s. iiij d. Cestassau*oir* vj s. viij d. a lez viscountz de dit Citee p*ur* le temps esteauntz & vj s. viij d. a lez ⟨...⟩ demesne lez artes q*e* p*ur* le temps s*er*rount & le dit some destr*e* leue p*ar* distresse Et q*e* bene lite si bene as ditz viscountz p*ur* lez vj s. viij d. q*i* a eux apprendra ⟨...⟩ ditz seneschalles p*ur* lez vj s. viij d. q*i* a eux apprendra & ⟨...⟩ p*ur* lez ditz so*m*mes issint assesse a distrendre chescun p*er*sone q*i* le dit so*m*me issait sur luy assesse ⟨..⟩ de voier ou paier refuse la dit distresse a chescun fortz q*e* le dit cas de nonn paument auiendra dan*er*e & tener irreplenisable ⟨...⟩ toutz io*ur*es En temoignage de quele Mose' ⟨...⟩ ordenance stabissement & agrement endente & enrolle si bien le dit mair p*ur* lui lez ditz ⌜viscountz⌝ & xxiiij aldermen le seal del office de Mairlt ⟨...⟩ lez ditz ⟨...⟩ seneschalles p*ur* eux & toutz lez artifecers dez artes susditz leur seales ount mys done a Cestr*e* io*ur* & lan susditz

...

1430–1

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 27v* *(13 October–12 October)*

...

in this yeare was St georges playes playd in chester

1433–4

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/105
mb 1 *(24 October)*

D*e* terris liberand*is* Ioh*ann*i fil*io* Petri de dutton Chiu*aler*i

Rex &c dil*ect*o sibi Ioh*ann*i le Bruyn Esc*heatori* suo in Com*itatu* Cestri*e*: salu*tem* Cum p*er* quandam inquisic*ion*em coram te de mandato n*ost*ro nup*er* captam & in *Scaccarium* n*ostr*um Cestr*ie* retornatam sit comp*er*tum q*uo*d Petrus de Dutton Chiualer*us* [⟨...⟩] obiit seisitus in d*omi*nico suo vt de feodo talliato de Man*er*io de dutton ‸⌜et q*uo*d⌝ Obiit eciam seisitus in d*omi*nico suo vt de feodo de Aduocar*iis* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* cum om*n*ib*us* ea tangentib*us* & illas tenuit de nob*is* vt Comite Cestr*ie* in capite p*er* s*er*uiciu*m* Militare & val*ent* p*er* annu*m* in om*n*ib*us* exitib*us* vltra repris*as* sex solidos & octo denar*ios*...

36/ nob*is*: *written over erasure*

1435–6

Sheriffs' Rolls CCALS: ZSR 223
single mb dorse* *(24 July)*

...

(...) Mart*is* post Magd*alene*

pleg*ius* de Inq*uisicione* ex pa*rte* Ric*ardi* Blakburns p*er* p*re*staton

¶ Thomas Bradford queri*tur* de Thoma Blakburn de pl*acito* debi*ti* plegi*us* de p*rosequendo* Ioh*annes* Beuerley & Attorn*atus* de r*espondendo* Attorn*atus* p*ro* def*endente* Rober*tus* de prestaton Et vnde q*uerens* q*uod* ei deb*it* ij s. vij d. v*idelicet* p*ro* iij quart*ers* launds p*recio* xviij d. & p*ro* vno gest*ro* x d. et p*ro* harpsstrynges iij d. def*endens* dic*it* q*uo*d Non deb*it* It*em* xij defend*ens* cogn*oscit* d*ictu*m deb*itu*m post q*uam* ad d*amn*a ij d. I*deo* &c

...

1436

Sheriffs' Rolls CCALS: ZSR 213
single mb*

...

mart*is*

It*em* Rog*er*us Wermynch*am* quer*itu*r de Ioh*anne* Asser de pl*acit*o detenc*io*nis Et vnde quer*itu*r q*uo*d ei detinet vnu*m* play garment p*recio* xiij s. iiij d. & vnu*m* bagge p*recio* iiij d. & ij torches defefend*ens* cogn*ovit* post quam

...

1437–8

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 33v* *(11 October–10 October)*

...

Senescallus del Mercers p*ro* redditu de shipyate viij d.

...

1438–9

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 33v* *(10 October 1438–16 October 1439)*

...

senescall*is* [pistor] piscatoru*m* cestr*ie* p*ro* quad*am* p*ar*cell*a* terre vj d.

...

1439–40

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 33v* *(16 October–14 October)*

...

senescall*is* sissor*um* Cestr*ie* p*ro* quad*am* p*ar*cell*a* terre vj d.

19/ defefend*ens*: *for* defendens

senescall*is* piscator*um* *pro* quad*am* parcell*a* terre vj d.

...

1440–1

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158

f 34* *(14 October–13 October)*

...

sen*escallis* sissor*um* cestr*ie* *pro* quad*am* parcell*a* terre vj d.

...

f 35v* *(Arrearages)*

...

piscator*ibus* Cestr*ie* *pro* quad*am* parcell*a* terre *(blank)*

...

1441–2

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158

f 34v* *(13 October–12 October) (Rentals)*

...

Sissor*ibus* cestr*ie* *pro* parcell*a* terr*e* vj d.

...

piscator*ibus* Cestrie *pro* parcell*a* terre vj d.

Senescall*is* mercers *pro* parcell*a* terre in shipgate viij d.

...

f 35*

...

...Senescall*is* le mercers viij d.

...

1442–3

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158

f 35v* *(12 October–11 October) (Rentals)*

...

Sen*escallis* le mercers *pro* redd*itu* suo viij d.

...

1445–6

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/119

mb 8d *(11 March)*

(...) liberand*is* Dutton de Dutton

Rex &c Esch*eatori* suo in Com*itatu* Cestr*ie* sal*utem*: Cum p*er* quandam inquisic*ion*em coram te de mandato n*ost*ro nup*er* capt*am* & in Scaccar*ium* n*ostr*um Cestr*ie* retornat*am* sit comp*er*tu*m* q*uo*d Ioh*anne*s de dutton de dutton in br*eui* dict*e* Inquisic*ioni* consut*o* no*minatus* obiit seisitus in d*omi*nico suo vt de feodo talliato de Man*er*io de dutton … et q*uo*d dict*us* Ioh*anne*s obiit seisit*us* in d*omi*nico suo vt de feodo de aduocar*iis* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* cu*m* p*er*tin*encijs* & eas tenuit de nob*is* Vt Comite Cestr*ie* p*er* s*er*uic*iu*m militare & valent p*er* annu*m* in om*n*ibu*s* exit*ibus* vltra repris*as* octo denar*ios* … Et q*uo*d p*re*d*ic*tus Ioh*anne*s de dutton obiit die d*omi*nica p*roxima* post festu*m* s*an*c*t*i valentini Martiris vltimo p*re*t*er*ito: et q*uo*d Thomas de dutton de dutton iam sup*er*stes est fil*ius* eiusdem Ioh*ann*is de dutton in d*ict*o br*eui* no*minat*i & heres eius p*ro*pinquior & fuit etatis viginti & quatuor*um* annor*um* & amplius temp*or*e mortis p*re*d*ict*i Ioh*ann*is…

…

1447–8

Sheriffs' Rolls CCALS: ZSR 262
single mb dorse* *(c 14 February)*

…

°concordati sunt & def*endentes* in m*isericordi*a°
Thomas Butler Baker quer*itur* de Will*elm*o Dwale & Ioh*anne* Baxter de pl*acit*o deb*it*i plegi*us* de p*rosequendo* Ioh*anne*s Yale de r*espondend*o attorn*atus* p*ro* quer*ente* Ioh*annes* lathome Et vnde quer*itur* q*uo*d ei debet ij s. vj d. p*ro* salario p*ro* eo q*uo*d ludebat dem*onium* in ludo pisto*rum*

…

1462–3

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 49v* *(15 October–14 October)* *(Arrears of rents)*

…

marchants of chester iij d.

…

AC ***Bakers' Company Charter*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 36v* *(12 January)*

Be it knowne to all men that in the Citty of chester ther is & hath byn out of tyme of mynd a craft called the craft of comon bakers of the same Citty hauing longinge therto an Alderman & tow stuards to be chosen by the bretheren of the same craft w*hi*ch byn & haue byn out of tyme of mynd bounden to make such p*ro*vision that there be Contynuall brede sufficient

---

4/ aduocar*iis*: r *written over* c
7–8/ die … p*re*t*er*ito: *20 February 1445/6*
8/ vltimo p*re*t*er*ito: *for* vltimum preteritum
10/ quatuor*um* annor*um*: *for* quatuor annor*um*
21/ debet: *for* debent

Whitson plays for alle the kinges people being there at alle tymes … & to be redy to pay for the Costes & expences of the play and light of Corpus Christi as oft tymes as it shall be asseset by the same stuards for the tyme being…

1463–4

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158

f 44v* *(14 October–12 October) (Debts)*

…

the mercers of chester iij d.

…

1465–6

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158

f 51* *(11 October–10 October) (Arrears)*

…

mercatores Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* *(blank)*
drap*ers* Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* pro *(blank)*
no more diserned

…

1466–7

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158

f 51* *(10 October 1466–16 October 1467) (Rents in arrears)*

…

Mercatores Ci*uita*tis p*ro* mansion*e* Carriagij sui *(blank)*

…

1467–8

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158

f 39* *(16 October–14 October) (Rentals)*

…

senescall*is* Tellarie Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* p*ro* gardino iuxta Truantshole 4 d.

…

f 39v* *(Northgate Street)*

…

senescall*is* de le shermen p*ro* Aysiament*o* Carragij sui iiij d.

…

32/ Tellarie: *for* Sellarie

f 40* *(Watergate Street)*

...

®ante mercatoribus

Apronarijs ⌜Meronarijs⌝ p*ro* Aysiamento Caragij ib*id*em vj d.
pannarijs p*ro* Consi*mi*li viij d.
...

f 52*

...
mercatoribus Ci*uita*tis p*ro* vna vacua placea ib*id*em viij d.
...

f 52v*

...
drap*er*s Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* p*ro* quad*a*m Asyament*o* viij d.
mercatoribus Ci*uita*tis p*ro* quad*a*m aysiament*o* ad Carag*ium* viij d.
...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Order CCALS: ZG 7/19
single mb *(12 March)*

This script & composicion made by all the maistres & brederi*n* of the craft of fflecchers & Bowers Wit*h*in the Cite of Chest*er* ... Also that eu*ery* maistire & iourneman. shalbe contributorie to pay for the Sustentacion & fortheraunce of the light of Corpus chr*ist*i. And othire charges that shall to the playe. of Corpus chr*ist*i & othire charges belongyng therto. opon payn of xiij s. iiij d. to be leuyed by. way of distresse or enp*ri*sonment. of the p*er*son that so offendys or levy of his godys by the styward of the seid Craftes atte theire eleccion. And that eu*ery* p*er*son that shall be made. brothire in any of the seid Craftz. shall paye atte his entre. to the sustentacion of the seid light & othire charges xxvj s. viij d. & that noo p*er*son be receyuyd. to the seid brethirhode in noon othire wyse. nor any Apprentice. to be take by any maistire of any of the seid Craftes vnto any of the same Craftz but for t*er*me of vij yeres or above & not vndir opon payn of brekyng of the othes aforerehersyd. And forfaiture of xl s. to theyre co*mpanyes* box to be kept & leuyed to the p*er*fo*ur*myng & vpholdyng of theire light & othire charges in the fourme aforeseyd...

3–4m/ ante mercatoribus: *underlined*
3/ Apronarijs: *underlined*
14, 15/ quad*a*m: *for* quodam

1468–9

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 56* *(14 October–13 October) (Arrearages)*

...

...pannar*ijs* Cestr*ie* 4 d....

...

1469–70

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 56* *(13 October–12 October) (Arrears of rents)*

...

mercator*ib*us ci*uita*tis vj d. pannarijs ci*uita*tis viij d....

...

1471–2

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/4
single mb dorse* *(11 October 1471–16 October 1472) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

D*e* Mercatorib*us* Ciuitate Cestr*ie* *pro* vna vacua placea ib*ide*m vj d.

...

Saddlers' and Curriers' Company Charter TNA: PRO CHES 2/144
mb [7] *(8 March)*

L*itt*ere patentes Sellator*um* Ciuitat*is* Cestr*ie*

Edwardus dei gr*aci*a Rex Angl*ie* & ffranc*ie* & Do*minus* Hib*er*nie Om*n*ib*us* ad quos *pre*sentes l*itt*ere *per*uen*er*int sal*ute*m Sciatis q*uo*d cum nob*is* sit intimatum p*er* n*ost*ros dilectos Subditos Ric*ardu*m Sadiller & henricum Ellome Senescallos Ric*ardu*m Ellome Ioh*ann*em yong Ric*ardu*m yong & henricum yong aldermannos & inhabitantes Magistros & occupatores artis & occupac*io*nis Sellator*um* infra ciuitatem n*ost*ram cestr*ie* qualit*er* p*er* inordinatos intrusiones erecciones & occupac*io*nes eiusdem Artis infra ciuitatem n*ost*ram p*re*d*ict*am p*er* forincecas p*er*sonas & p*o*p*u*lor*um* de irrigimine obstinate disposic*io*nis eos non confirmand*o* ad supportand*a* on*er*a & custus ludi & pagine occupatorib*us* eiusdem Artis & Ciuitatis Assignat*a* pcell*is* ludi & luminis corpis chr*ist*i in honore eiusdem p*er* occupatores eiusdem Artis & occupac*io*nis in Ciuitate p*re*d*ict*a Annuatim sustinend*is* & custodiend*is*

20/ Ciuitate: *for* Ciuitatis
31/ inordinatos: *for* inordinatas
35/ pcell*is*: *for* parcellis; *abbreviation mark omitted*
36/ corpis: *for* corporis; *abbreviation mark omitted*

nec multimoda alia on*er*a annuatim ordinat*a* in honore dei & ciuitatis n*ost*re p*re*d*ic*t*e* p*er* eosdem artifices infra ciuitatem n*ost*ram p*re*d*ict*am sustentat*a* & sic n*ost*ri subditi p*re*d*ict*i grauit*er* sunt det*er*iorati & ita depaup*er*at*i* de bonis suis q*uo*d ips*i* eadem on*er*a continuare non possunt nec ea in tempore futur*o* sustinere . absq*ue* fauore . & remedio n*ost*ris in ea p*ar*te Nos igit*ur* intimam consideraci*on*em ad p*re*missa . h*ab*entes de gr*aci*a n*ost*ra spec*i*ali concessim*us* p*re*fatis Subditis n*ost*ris Senescallis Aldermannis & inh*ab*itantib*us* magistris & occupatorib*us* eiusdem artis & occupaci*on*is Sellator*um* & Successorib*us* suis Senescallis Aldermannis & inh*ab*itantib*us* magistris & occupatorib*us* eiusdem artis & occupaci*on*is Sellator*um* infra Ciuitatem n*ost*ram Cestr*ie* tempore futuro existent*ibus* q*uo*d nulla p*er*sona neq*ue* p*er*sone de c*et*ero durante t*er*mino quadraginta Annor*um* p*ro*xim*e* sequen*tium* intrabit aut intrabunt eriget aut erigent nec occupabit aut occupabunt p*re*dict*am* artem & occupaci*on*em Sellator*um* infra d*ict*am ciuitatem n*ost*ram nec ‸⌈in⌉ aliquo loco ffranchesie eiusdem absq*ue* voluntate assensu licencia & agreamento Subditor*um* n*ost*ror*um* p*re*d*ict*or*um* & eor*um* Successor*um* Senescallor*um* Aldermannor*um* magistror*um* & occupator*um* eiusdem artis Sellator*um* vel maioris p*ar*tis illor*um* infra p*re*d*ict*am Ciuitatem n*ost*ram inh*ab*itant*ium* sub pena forisfacture Centum solidor*um* cuiuslib*et* p*er*sone sic facientis tociens quociens ips*e* absq*ue* tali licencia intrabit eriget vel occupabit p*re*d*ict*am artem vel occupaci*on*em absq*ue* voluntate assensu licencia & agremento sup*ra*dict*orum* medietate eor*um*dem Centum solidor*um* nob*is* hered*ibus* & Successorib*us* n*ost*ris forisfaciend*a* . alt*er*a vero medietate eor*um*dem Centum solidor*um* forisfaciend*a* p*re*fatis Senescallis Aldermannis Magistris & occupatorib*us* eiusdem Artis & occupaci*on*is Sellator*um* infra Ciuitatem n*ost*ram p*re*d*ict*am p*ro* tempore existen*tibus* ad sustentaci*on*em pagine luminis & ludi antedict*orum* & p*er* n*ost*ros Vicecomites Ciuitatis n*ost*re p*re*d*ict*e p*ro* tempore existent*es* leuand*a* . Et insup*er* de ampliori gr*aci*a n*ost*ra concessimus p*re*fatis Subditis & eor*um* Successorib*us* Senescallis Aldermannis Magistris & occupatorib*us* d*ict*e artis Sellator*um* in ciuitate p*re*d*ict*a & ffranchesia eiusdem post*er*im inh*ab*itant*ibus* q*uo*d liceat eis infutur*um* tociens quociens eis de necessari*o* ordinare fac*er*e & compon*er*e int*er* seme*t*ips*o*s decebit tales ordinaci*on*es & constituci*on*es custodiend*as* infra & int*er* Senescallos Aldermannos Magistros & occupatores eiusdem artis infra d*ict*am Ciuitatem p*ro*ut p*ro* oportunitate ordinat*e* sustentaci*on*is Pagine ludi artis & occupaci*on*is p*re*d*ict*or*um* Sellator*um* infra Ciuitatem p*re*d*ict*am & ffranchesiam eiusdem beneficialius p*ro*uidere pot*er*it In cui*us* rei testimoniu*m* has l*itt*eras n*ost*ras fieri fecim*us* patentes Teste me ipso apud Cestr*iam* viij die Marcij Anno regni n*ost*ri duodecimo

p*er* bre*ue* de privato sigillo & de dat*a* auctoritate p*ar*liamenti

1472–3

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158
f 55v* *(16 October–15 October) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

…

Mercatoribus Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* p*ro* vacua placa ib*ide*m vj d.

…

pa*n*niparijs Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* p*ro* aysament*o* viij d.

…

f 56v* *(Arrearages)*

…Mercator*ibus* Ci*uita*tis p*ro* vacua placea vj d.… pannar*ijs* Ci*uita*tis p*ro* Aysiament*o* viij d.…

1473–4

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158
f 56v* *(15 October–14 October) (Arrearages)*

…

mercatores Cestr*ie* vj d.

…

pannarijs Cestr*ie* viij d.

…

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/146
mbs 12–12d *(8 April)*

Edwardus Primogenitus Edwardi quarti Regis Angl*ie* & ffranc*ie* Princeps Wall*ie* Dux Cornub*ie* & Comes Cestr*ie* Om*n*ib*us* ad quos p*re*sentes l*itt*ere p*er*uen*er*int Sal*ute*m Inspexim*us* quand*am* Inquisic*ion*em capt*am* apud Cestr*iam* coram Thoma maistressone Esc*heatore* Cestris*irie* Virtute br*ev*is d*omi*ni Regis Ric*ard*i Sec*un*di anno regni sui sextodecimo eidem Esc*heatori* direct*i* in hec verba Inquis*icio* capt*a* apud Cestr*iam* coram Thoma maistresson Esc*heatore* Cestris*irie* virtute br*ev*is d*omi*ni Regis eidem Esc*heatori* directi & huic officio consuti die Iouis in quarta Septimana quadragesime Anno r*egni* Ric*ard*i Sec*un*di sextodecimo p*er* sac*ramentu*m Rob*er*ti le Grosuenor Chiualer*i* Ric*ard*i de wynynton Chiualer*i* Ioh*ann*is de Pulle Chiualer*i* Ric*ard*i de Manley Petri de whiteley Ioh*ann*is de Hallu*m* Nich*ola*i de Orell Rob*er*ti de Mascy de Hale Ioh*ann*is de Stathum Ioh*ann*is le Maynwaryng Rob*er*ti Damel de lyme & Ioh*ann*is de Clayton Iur*atorum* Qui dic*unt* sup*er* Sac*ramentum* suu*m* q*uo*d laurencius de Dutton Chiualer*us* obiit seis*itus* in d*omi*nico suo vt de feodo

---

5/ placa: *for* placea

taliato de Man*er*io de weston iuxta Runcorn … Et dic*unt* q*uo*d pr*e*di*ct*us laur*encius* obiit seis*itus* in d*omi*nico suo vt de feodo de aduocar*ia* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* cu*m* om*n*ib*us* eisdem tang*entibus* & val*ent* p*er* annu*m* in om*n*ib*us* ex*itibus* xx s. et tenet*ur* de d*omi*no Rege vt Comite Cestr*ie* in capite p*er* *ser*uici*u*m militare…

…

1474–5

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 5

f 216* *(3 September)*

Memorand*um* 〈…〉 ther hath ben on Corpus day 〈…〉 reign of kyng Edward the ffourth 〈…〉 and contraversies betwix the bowers & the ffletchers of the Cety of Chester on that on p*ar*tie and the Cowpers of the said cety on that other p*ar*tie ffor the beryng and goyng in p*ro*cession With thaire light*es* on the said day which seidez p*ar*ties haue agreit thaym & ichon of thaym to abide p*er*fourme & obeie such orden*au*nce dome & awarde as Iohn Sotheworth Squyer Maire of the Cety aforesaid Shulde make theryn Wheropon the said maire the iij^de^ day of the monyth of Septemb*er* of the said Corp*us* day ye next ensuyng hath herde the grevaunce & compleynt*es* of aither of the said*es* p*ar*ties by gode Deliberac*io*n And the said Maire by the Advice of dyvers of his breder hath ordenet demed & awerdet the saides p*ar*ties to be gode ffrendes of & for all the p*re*myssez Also he hath ordenet & awardet that the saides cowp*er*s & thaire Successors Cowp*er*s of ye said Cety from hensforth shall bere thaire Light*es* yerely iij lightez on that on side ye pauement and iij on that op*posite* from saint maire kirke opon ye hill of ye Cety aforesaid vnto the Colage of Seint Ioh*anne* next before the lights of the said*es* ffletchers & bowers And the 〈…〉 & 〈…〉chers evenly to bere thaire light*es* 〈…〉id*es* Cowp*er*s by the said Award in ye 〈…〉 Yeven the thridde day of Sept*ember* on the 〈…〉 aforesaid/.

1476–7

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158

f 58* *(11 October–10 October) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

…

mercatoribus Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* p*ro* vacua placea ter*re* etc. vj d.

…

pannipari*js* ci*uita*tis p*re*dic*te* p*ro* Aysiament*o* viij d.

…

28/ 〈…〉: *Morris read* said Bowers

28/ 〈…〉chers: *Morris read* Fletchers

28/ 〈…〉id*es*: *Morris read* next to the saide

30/ 〈…〉: *Morris read* yere

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/149
mb 11 *(24 June)*

Comissio Abb*atis* Cestr*ie* & Alior*um* pro vna Cur*ia* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* tenend*a*

Edwardus &c. Om*n*ib*us* ad quos p*re*sentes l*itt*ere p*er*uen*er*int Sal*ute*m Sciatis q*uo*d nos de fidelitate circumspecc*ione* & industria dil*ectorum* & fideliu*m* n*ost*ror*um* Ric*ardi* abb*at*is Monast*er*ij *Sancte* Werburge Cestr*ie* hugonis Mascy Maioris Ciuitatis n*ost*re Cestr*ie* & Mag*ist*ri Will*elm*i Thomas plenarie confidentes constituim*us* & ordinauim*us* ip*s*os Abb*at*em Maiorem & Will*elmu*m Senescallos n*ost*ros coniunctim & diuisim ad vnam Cur*iam* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* in Ciuitate p*re*d*ic*ta hac vice tantu*m* tenend*am* iam in man*ibus* n*ost*ris existent*em* *raci*one minoris etatis laurencij filij & hered*is* Rog*er*i de Dutton nup*er* d*omi*ni de Dutton iam defunct*i* Et ad facie nd*a* & exercend*a* om*n*ia que ad officiu*m* Senescalcie p*re*d*ic*te hac vice p*er*tinent faciend*um* Et ideo vob*is* mandam*us* q*uo*d eisdem abb*at*i Maiori & Will*elm*o in om*n*ib*us* que ad officiu*m* p*re*d*ictu*m hac vice p*er*tinent faciend*um* intendentes sitis auxiliantes fortificantes & p*er* om*n*ia respondentes In cui*us* rei & T*este* me ip*s*o apud Cestr*iam* xxiiij die Iunij anno regni d*ic*ti p*at*ris n*ost*ri decimo septimo
...

1477–8

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 61* *(29 September–29 September) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*
...

mercatoribus ci*uita*tis cestr*ie* panna*rijs* eiusd*em* ci*uita*tis	held all places & rents as Roll 30 ante

...

1478–9

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/151
mb 5d* *(23 June)*
...

Edwardus Primogenitus Edwardi quarti Regis angl*ie* & ffranc*ie* & D*omi*ni Hib*er*nie Princeps Wall*ie* Dux Cornub*ie* & Comes Cestr*ie* Om*n*ib*us* ad quos p*re*sentes l*itt*ere p*er*uen*er*int Sal*ute*m Sciatis q*uo*d nos de fidelitate circumspecc*ione* & industria dil*ectorum* & fideliu*m* n*ost*ror*um* Ric*ardi* Sodoren*sis* E*pisco*pi abb*at*is Monast*er*ij *Sancte* Werburge Cestrie Roberti Natervile Maioris Ciuitatis n*ost*re Cestr*ie* & Petri Dutton Sen*ioris* plenarie confidentes constituim*us* & ordinauim*us* ip*s*os E*pisco*p*um* Maiorem & Petru*m* Senescallos n*ost*ros coniunctim & diuisim ad vnam Cur*iam* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* in Ciuitate p*re*d*ic*ta hac vice tantum tenend*am* iam in man*ibus* n*ost*ris existent*em* *raci*one minoris etatis laurencij filij & hered*is* Rog*er*i de Dutton nup*er* d*omi*ni de Dutton iam defunct*i* Et ad faciend*a* & excercend*a* om*n*ia que ad officiu*m*

Senoscalcie p*re*d*ict*e hac vice p*er*tinent faciend*um* Et ideo vob*is* mandam*us* q*uo*d eisdem E*pisco*po Maiori & petro in om*nibus* que ad officiu*m* p*re*d*ictu*m hac vice p*er*tinent faciend*um* intendentes sitis auxiliantes fortificantes & p*er* om*n*ia respondentes In cuius rei testimoniu*m* has l*itte*ras n*ost*ras fieri fecim*us* patentes T*este* me ip*s*o apud Cestr*iam* xxiij die Iunij anno regni d*ic*t*i* p*at*ris n*ost*ri decimo nono

1479–81

AC ***City Treasurers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2158.

f 62*

...

the marchants of chester de vnius vacue place terre in grayfrere lane p*ro* Carriagio suo 2 years vnpayd 19.20 E*dward* 4 xij d.

the drap*er*s of the Citty de redd*it*u alterne shope place terre in grayfrere lane p*ro* carragio suo 2 years 19.20 E*dward* 4 xvj d.

...

f 64v* *(Arrearages)*

...

mercatores ci*uit*atis 2 years 19 20 E*dward* 4 xij d.

pannar*ijs* ci*uit*atis 2 yeares xvj d.

...

1479–80

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/152

mb 11 *(20 June)*

...

Com*missio* *pro* I Cur*ia* histrionu*m* tenend*a* r*aci*one minoris etat*is* laur*encij* Dutton fil*ij* & her*edis* Rogeri Dutton Ar*migeri*

Edwardus Primogenitus Edwardi quarti Regis Angl*ie* & ffranc*ie* & D*om*ini Hib*ern*i*e* Princeps Wall*ie* Dux Cornub*ie* & Comes Cestr*ie* Om*n*ib*us* ad quos p*re*sentes l*itt*ere p*er*uen*er*int sal*ut*em Sciatis q*uo*d nos de fidelitate circumspeccio*ne* & industria dil*ecto*r*um* & fideliu*m* n*ost*ror*um* Ioh*ann*is Massy sen*ioris* Armig*er*i Petri Dutton sen*ioris* de Hatton armig*er*i Thome Pole sen*ioris* armig*er*i & Ioh*ann*is Sotheworth armig*er*i plenarie confidentes constituim*us* & ordinauim*us* ip*s*os Ioh*ann*em Petru*m* Thomam & Ioh*ann*em coniunctim & diuisim Senescallos n*ost*ros ad vnam Cur*iam* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* in Ciuitate p*re*d*ict*a hac vice tantum tenend*am* iam in man*ibus* n*ost*ris existent*em* r*aci*one minoris etatis laurencij filij & hered*is* Rogeri Dutton nup*er* D*om*ini de Dutton iam defunct*i* Et ad faciend*a* & excercend*a* om*n*ia que ad officiu*m* Senescalcie p*re*d*ict*e hac vice p*er*tine*n*t faciend*um* Et ideo vob*is* mandamus q*uo*d eisdem Ioh*ann*i Petro Thome & Ioh*ann*i & vnicuiq*ue*

12/ de vnius: *for* de redditu vnius *(?)*

eor*um* coniunctim & diuisim in om*n*ib*us* que ad officiu*m* pr*e*d*ictu*m hac vice p*er*tinent faciend*um* intendentes sitis auxiliantes fortificantes & p*er* om*n*ia respondentes In cui*us* rei testimoniu*m* has l*itte*ras n*ost*ras fieri fecim*us* patentes T*este* me ip*s*o apud Cestr*iam* xx die Iunij Anno regni d*ic*ti p*at*ris n*ost*ri vicesimo

...

1480–3

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158

f 63v* *(Rents in arrears)*

...

® Sadlers

Tho*ma* Rokley & Io*hanne* smyth senescall*is* arte sellario infra Ci*uita*tis Cestr*ie* p*ro* quod*a*m Aysiament Cariagij sui iiij d.

...

f 64*

...

mercere ci*uita*tis cestr*ie* p*ro* placea terre p*ro* aysiamento Cariagij sui 3 yeare xviij d.

pannarie Ciuitatis p*ro* redd*itu* alterius placie p*ro* Cariagij sui 3 years ij s.

...

1481–2

AC *City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2158

f 62v* *(12 October–11 October)* *(Arrears of rents)*

...

marchants of chester for Carrage howse vj d.

drap*er*s of Citty for like viij d.

...

f 65*

...

marchants 21 E*dward* 4 owe vj d.

drapers viij d.

...

12/ arte sellario: *for* artis sellarie

12/ sellario: *underlined*

12/ Ci*uita*tis: *for* Ciuitatem

18/ mercere: *for* merceris

18/ Cariagij sui: *for* Cariagio suo

20/ pannarie: *for* pannarijs

1482–3

City Treasurers' Accounts BL: Harley MS 2158
f 65* *(11 October–10 October) (Arrearages)*

…

…marchants vj d. drap*er*s viij d.

…

1487–8

Sheriffs' Rolls CCALS: ZSR 356
single mb* *(26 June)*

…

⟨…⟩ die uen*eris* post ⟨…⟩ ⟨.⟩etri & Pauli

Ioh*ann*es Iankynson weu*er* quer*itur* de Ioh*ann*e hayward Coke de pl*ac*ito deb*iti* Pleg*iu*s de p*rosequen*do Ioh*ann*es Iohnson & de r*espondend*o *(blank)* quer*ens* po*nit* loc*o* suo Ioh*ann*em Iohnson def*endens* po*nit* loc*o* suo Will*elmu*m C⟨…⟩ Et vn*de* quer*itur* q*uo*d dict*us* def*endens* ei debet viij d. eo q*uo*d die lune p*roximo* post ff*estu*m Pentecost*is* Anno r*egni* r*egis* H*enrici* septimi post conquestu*m* primo apud Cestr*iam* & infra lib*er*tat*es* Ci*uitat*is Cestr*ie* dict*us* def*endens* cogn*ouit* se debere eid*em* ⟨…⟩ eand*em* summa*m* p*ro* labore suo in ludendo demon*ium* in le Cok*es* play sol*uet* *sib*i q*ua*m Et licet &c Id*em* t*amen* def*endens* &c Et inde p*ro*ducit sect*am* def*endens* ven*it* p*er* attorn*atu*m suu*m* & dicit q*uo*d n*ihi*l ei deb*et* I*de*o Iur*ato* Iur*amento* ⟨…⟩ q*uo*d def*endens* debet deb*itu*m I*de*o r*ecognouit* deb*itu*m & d*amn*a ij d.

…

1489–90

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 31* *(16 October–15 October)*

…

the Asumption of our lady was playd at the high Crosse befor the lo*r*d strange

…

A ***Mayors List 9*** BL: Additional MS 29777
mb [8]* *(16 October–15 October)*

…

In this yeare the Assumption of our Ladye was plaid in the Bridgestrete of Chester before my Lorde Strange

…

15–16/ die lune p*roximo* post ff*estum* Pentecost*is*: *15 May 1486*

1495–6

Enrolments TNA: PRO CHES 2/166
mb 3 *(24 June)*

...

Comiss*io* Maioris Cestr*ie* [& Alior*um*] p*ro* vna Cur*ia* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* tend*a*

Arthurus &c. Omn*ibus* ad quos p*re*sentes l*itte*re p*er*uen*er*int sal*utem*. Sciatis q*uo*d nos de fidelitate circumspecc*ione* & industria dil*ectorum* & fideliu*m* n*ost*ror*um* Ric*ard*i Werehall Maioris Ciuitatis Cestr*ie* Wyll*elm*i Tatton & hamonis hassall plenarie confidentes constituim*us* & ordinauim*us* ip*s*os Maiorem. Wyll*elmu*m & hamonem Senescallos n*ost*ros coniunctim & diuisim. ad vnam Cur*iam* histrionu*m* Cestris*irie* in Ciuitate p*re*d*ict*a hac vice tantu*m* tenend*am* tempore mortis Rogeri Dutton Armig*er*i. iam defunct*i* in man*ibus* n*ost*ris existent*em* & de nob*is* tenet*ur* p*er* s*er*uiciu*m* militare Et ad facienda & exc*er*cend*a* om*n*ia que ad officiu*m* Senescalcie p*re*d*ict*e hac vice p*er*tinent ffaciend*um* Et ideo vob*is* mandam*us* q*uo*d eisdem Maiori Wyll*el*mo & hamoni in om*n*ib*us* que ad officiu*m* p*re*d*ict*um hac vice p*er*tinent ffaciend*um* intendentes sitis auxiliantes fortificantes & p*er* om*n*ia respondentes In cui*us* rei &c. T*este* me ip*s*o apud Cestr*iam* xxiiij die Iunij anno regni d*ict*i p*at*ris n*ost*ri vndecimo

...

1498–9

A ***Mayors List 3*** BL: Harley MS 2057
f 26v* *(12 October–11 October)*

...

midsomer wach began

pendice

whitson playes

mayor made Esq*uier*

In this yeare it apeareth the watch on Midsom*er* even begonn, also the Northside of the Pentize builded, prince Arthur came to Chester about the fourth day of August, the Assumpc*ion* ⌈°purificaton°⌉ of our Ladie played before the prince at the Abbay gate, ‸⌈°& high Crosse°⌉ the xxvth of August, the prince made Mr Goodman Esquier, and the xixth day of September, he dep*ar*ted fro*m* Chester.

...

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 32* *(12 October–11 October)*

...

In this yeare the Northsyde of the pentise in this cittye was new buylded/ prince Aurther came to this cittye ‸⌈°3 August 14 H*enry* 7°⌉ beinge of the age of 14. yeares, and the Storie of the Assumption of our Ladye was played at the abbey gates and [nere to] ⌈°at°⌉ the heigh crosse/ ⌈°25 Aug*ust* the prince made mr°⌉

27/ purificaton: *in RH II's hand; for* purification
28/ & ... Crosse: *in RH II's hand*
37/ 3 ... H*enry* 7: *in RH II's hand*
39/ [nere to] ⌈°at°⌉: *cancellation and addition by RH II*
39/ 25 Aug*ust* ... mr: *in RH II's hand*

Rich*ard* Goodman mayor made Esquier [by the prince/] ⌜°19 decemb*er* he did dep*ar*t from Chester.°⌝ …

°This yeare the wach on midsomer Eue was first sett out & begonn°

…

A **Mayors List 13** CCALS: ZCR 60/83

f 8v* *(12 October–11 October)*

…

In this yeare the watch vpon midsomer Eve beganne/ The North syde of the pentice builded,/ Prince Arthur Came to Chester. about the. 4. Aug*ust* before whom the Assumption of o*ur* Lady was played at the Abbay gates 25. August. He made Richarde Goodman Esq*uie*r. and 29. Septemb*er*. he dep*ar*ted from Chester./

…

AC **Mayors List 15** CCALS: DLE 135

f [7]* *(12 October–11 October)*

…

In this yeare p*ri*nce Arrthur came to chest*er* the iijth daye of august in the xiiijth yeare of kynge henrye the vijth Raigne & the assompsion of o*ur* ladye was played before the p*ri*nce at that tyme

…

Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 20/1

f 1v

…

Thomas Edyar Smith to Prince Arthur, beinge att the Castle of Chester, in the xiiijth yeare of the Raigne of Henrie the Seaventh his ffather, then beinge Kinge of England, And att the same tyme Prince Arthur gave vnto the sayed Edyar, a Crowned of Silver guilt, A Hammer with horshoe and Pincers the Armes of Smiths to them and theire Success*ors* fforever./

…

1499–1500

Summons to Laurence Dutton CCALS: DSS 3991/357

p 12*

Cestr*ie* sessiones

a Laur*entius* de dutton sum*monitus* fuit ad r*e*spond*endum* d*omi*no princ*ipi* Com*iti* C*estrie* de pl*a*cito q*uo* warr*anto* clam*at* h*ab*ere q*uo*d o*mn*es ministrelli

---

1/ made: *redundant after* RH II*'s addition*

1–2/ [by the prince/] … Chester: *cancellation and addition by* RH II

1/ decemb*er*: *for* september

3/ This … begonn: *in* RH II*'s hand*

infra Com*itatum* *Cestrie* & infra Cestr*iam* manentes v*e*l officia sua ib*ide*m
exercen*tes* debent convenire cu*m* ip*s*o v*e*l *Senes*callo suo ap*u*d Cestr*iam* ad
f*estu*m Na*tivitatis* *sanc*ti Ioh*ann*is bapt*iste* an*nua*tim et dabunt sibi ad d*ictum*
f*estu*m 4^{or} Lagenas vini et vna*m* Lancia*m* Et insup*er* q*ui*lib*e*t eor*um* dabit sibi
4 d. ob. ad d*ictum* f*estu*m Et h*ab*ere de qualib*e*t meretrice infra Com*itatum*
b Cestr*ie* et infra Cestr*iam* manent*i* vel officiu*m* su*um* exercent*i* 4 d. p*er*
an*num* ad f*estu*m Na*tivitatis* *sanc*ti Io*hannis* bapt*iste*…

Titulus &c c Et p*redictus* Laur*entius* per *(blank)* attor*natum* su*um* ven*it* et q*u*oad hoc
q*uo*d o*mn*es ministrelli infra Com*itatum* p*redictum* et infra Cestr*iam*
manent*es* v*e*l officia sua ib*ide*m exercentes debent convenire cu*m* ip*s*o v*e*l
*Senesc*allo suo ap*u*d Cestr*iam* ad f*estu*m Na*tivitatis* *sanc*ti Io*hannis* bapt*iste*
an*nua*tim & dabunt sibi ad d*ictum* f*estu*m q*u*olib*e*t eor*um* debit*o* sibi 4 d.
Meretrix ob. et 4^{or} Lagenas vini & vn*am* Lancia*m* et insup*er* et h*ab*ere de qualib*e*t
meretrice infra Com*itatum* *Cestrie* & infra Cestr*iam* manent*i* v*e*l officiu*m*
su*um* exercen*ti* 4 d. p*er* an*num* ad f*estu*m Na*tivitatis* *sanc*ti Io*hannis* bap*tiste*
d dic*it* ip*s*e q*uo*d ip*s*e et o*mn*es antecess*ores* sui et o*mn*es illi quor*um* statu*m*
id*e*m Laur*entius* m*od*o h*ab*et in man*er*io p*redicto* seiseit*i* ac vsi fuer*unt*
officijs lib*er*tatib*us* et redd*itibus* p*redictis* a temp*or*e cuius contrarij
memoria ho*minum* no*n* existit tanqua*m* pertin*encijs* man*erij* p*redicti*
hucvsq*ue*…

…

c 1500

AC ***List of Guilds in Procession*** BL: Harley MS 2104
f 4*

Drapers
Drahers of dee
barburs
Wryȝtus
Wynteners
Marcers
goldsm[y]
goldsmythus and masons
Smythus
bucherus
glouers
Coruisers and barkers
Baxters

13m/ Meretrix: *underlined*

fflecherus and Cowpers
hyru*n*mu*n*ggers
Cokus
Tapsters and hostlers
Skynners
Sadelers
Talyers
ffychemu*n*gers
þe Wyfus of þe town assumpc*ion* be*at*e marie
Scheremen
Heusters
Weuers & Walkers

1511–12

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 33* *(10 October 1511–15 October 1512)*

. . .

The Shootinge vpon blake mondaye for abreakefast, first begone by these Sheriffes °& charles Eaton wone°

. . .

A ***Mayors List 8*** BL: Additional MS 11335
f 23 *(10 October 1511–15 October 1512)*

. . .

The shooteing on Black munday upon the Roodee in Easter Weeke for a breakfast, by the sherriffes of this citty called calves head & bacon, began first Anno D*omin*i 1511 mr Thomas Smith major, Hugh clarke and Charles Eaton then sherriffes

. . .

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542
f [27v]* *(10 October 1511–15 October 1512)*

. . .

This yeare greate debate betwixt the Cittie and thabbott And also this yeare the shotinge vpon blage mondaye was fyrst begune by these sheriff*es* for a breakefast

. . .

18, 25, 35/ blake mondaye, Black munday, blage mondaye: *12 April 1512*
19/ & charles Eaton wone: *in RH II's hand*

AC

1515–16

Mayors List 5 BL: Harley MS 2125
f 33v* *(12 October–10 October)*

...

the shepards play & the Assumption of our lady was played in St Iohns churchyard

...

1517–18

St Werburgh's Cartulary JRL: Latin MS 460
f 21* *(22 June)*

Memorand*um* that in the tenthe yere of the Reigne of o*u*r souerayne lorde kinge henry the viijth the xxij day of Iune It was Cou*en*anted and graunted by the right reuerende fader in god Iohn abbot of the monast*ery* of saynt Wereburge in Chest*er* and Conuente of the same on the one p*ar*tie:/ And Iohn Bircheley clerke of london on the other p*ar*tie after the tenor and effecte heraft*er* ensuynge:/ That is to say at the feste of saynte michael tharchangel next foloynge the date herof the said Iohn Bircheley to haue a writinge delyu*er*ed and sealled withe the Chaptre seall of the said monast*er*ye for a p*er*petuite secke and holle terme of his liffe of vj li. Wages sterlinge yerely and to be paid quart*er*ly after the rate/ And also to haue meite and drinke for his owne p*er*son within the said monast*er*ye vpon the said abbott*es* and Conuent*es* charges and theire successor*es* after suche man*er* as the said abbot hath bene accustomed to yeue vnto one of his Ientilmen doynge s*er*uice within the saide monast*ery*:/ It*em* to haue a howse of the said abbott*es* and Conuent*es* charg*es* within the Citie or withoute at the pleasure of the said abbot rente free/ It*em* to haue for his wiffe endurenge her liffe a lyu*er*ey of vij loff*es* of Bred called paynquartons And vij gallons of ale wekely withe the said Bred home vnto her house after the man*er* and forme foloynge That is to wete iiij white loues and iij Rye loues and iiij galons of Conuent ale and iij galons of the secunde ale called s*er*uant*es* ale/ °P*ro*uydet allway that yf the wiffe of the saide Iohn bircheley hapen to dye afore the said Iohn Then the sayd lyu*er*ey and howse to be surrenderyd vp vnto thuse and p*ro*ffett of the said Abbot and Conuente and thair successor*es* withoute eny further Clayme of the saide Iohn But to be contented to haue his Chambre within the said Monasterye and mete and drynke and his said wages within the same as ys to fore rehersed And for thys the said Iohn Byrcheley on his p*ar*te Couen*a*untethe and grauntithe to teche all suche bredren of the place as be or shalbe willyng heraftre to Lerne to synge thaire playnsonge fafurden prykksong descant to

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40/ fafurden: *for* faburden

play on the Organs And to sett songes yf thay be dysposed to gif theymsellffe therunto And aftre lyke man*er* to Instructe six Children for the Chapell and as many other scolars of the place that haue or shall haue thaire fyndyng within the monastery aforsaid as the said Abbot and Co*n*uent and theire Successor*es* for the tyme beyng shall thynke necessarye for mayntena*n*ce of diuine *ser*uyce within the said monast*er*ye/ It*em* to kepe a Ladye masse dayly withe pryksong and organs and an Antemp of p*ri*ksong foloyng the same It*em* eu*ery* fryday Iesus masse w*ith* priksong and thorgans at vj of the Clok in the morowe/ And an Antemp of I*o*hn and of o*ur* Lady withe the pees at aftre Euynsong as hathe be vsed withe all other masses matyns and Antymps whiche hathe bene accustomed to be kepte withe pricksonge and Organs on festyvall dayes at any tyme hertofore or that shalbe thoght reasonable by the sayd Abbot and Co*n*uent and their successor*es* at any tyme heraftre the said Iohn ou*er* and byonde the p*ro*mysses p*ro*mysethe to kepe and p*er*forme aftre his best man*er* And also not to be absent from his said duties of dyuyne *ser*uyce withoute lycence or suche reasonable causes as shalbe from tyme to tyme admytted & alowed by the said abbot & Co*n*uent & thair successor*es* And to make & set descant opon the playnsong*es* of the Quere as he shalbe reasonably requyred to thonor of god Also that the said Iohn shall not dep*ar*te to no mans *ser*uyce for the whyle of his patente But by concent of bothe p*ar*tyes afore spokon.°

1520–1

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 12

f 16

...

D*e* Ric*ard*o Godemane walker & Cecilia. vx*ore* eius. quia custodiunt in domo sua diu*ersas* p*er*sonas. in nocte ludentes. et tripidant*es* vsq*ue* ad horam duodecimam in nocte. ad magnu*m* nocumentu*m* vicino*rum* suo*rum* contra etc *(blank)*

...

f 24v *(4 February)*

...

This Indenture made the iiijth daye of ffebruary in the xijth yere of the Reigne. of kyng the e*i*ght Betwene Richard laye . & Edward Taillir Stuard*es* of Thoccupac*i*on of ffounders & pewtrers w*ith*in the Citie of Chest*er* opon the oon p*ar*tie And Richard Taillir Smyth & Richard Anderton Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of Smyths w*ith*in the Citie of Chest*er* opon that other p*ar*tie.

2/ for the Chapell: *written over erasure*

2–3/ and as ... of the: *written in place of erasure*

14/ byonde: *for* beyonde

27/ custodiunt: *6 minims in* MS

35/ kyng the eight: *for* kyng Henry the eight

Witnessith that the seid Stuard*es* & all theire holle occupac*i*on Apon A . Semble made & Comunycac*i*on had betwene the seid occupac*i*ons for the wele . and goode Zele . of the same . byn fully co*n*decendet and agreid In man*ner* & forme foloyng That is to witte from hensfourthe the [C] Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*ons of ffounders & pewtrers for the tyme beyng to Receyue the Incomes & forfet*es* of all suche p*er*sonnes that will cu*m* in to . the seid occupac*i*on of ffounders & peutrers & be of theire Brotherhod the Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of Smythes . in nowise to intromedill ne haue eny thyng to do therw*ith* And in like wise the Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of Smythes . to Receyue the Incomes . & forfet*es* of all suche p*er*sonnes . as will cu*m* in to the seid occupac*i*on of Smythes . and be . of theire Brotherhod the . Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of ffounders and pewtrers . in nowise intromedelyng ne hauyng eny thyng to do therw*ith* Also the Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of ffounders & pewtrers . as the Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of Smythes aforseid byn fully condecendent & agreid to berre & drawe . to whitson playe & Corpus chr*ist*i light & to bere to the fyndyng of the p*re*ste . of Seynt loye Chapell and all other Cost*es* as they of olde tyme . haue donne . & vsed Also the Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of ffounders & pewtrers . in the name of all theire holle occupac*i*on as the [Str] Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on of Smythes . in all the holle name of theire occupac*i*on byn fully condecendet & agreid That the Stuard*es* of aither occupac*i*on for the tyme beyng shall eu*ery* yere in the ffeste of Seynt loye or w*ith*in viij dayes . the seid ffeste of Seynt loye Imediatly foloyng yefe afore the Stuard*es* of thoccupac*i*on & iiij aldermen of the seid occupac*i*on A Iuste & a true accompte . of alman*er* Incomes & forfet*es* by theym Receyuet duryng the tyme . they stonde Stuard*es* So that apon the seid accompte had the p*ro*phet*es* therof shall groo buto the p*ro*phet*es* of Seynt loye Chapell opon the payne of theym that contra*r*ye to this agrement to forfete to the same vse fyve pound*es* of leyfull money of Englond In witnesse wherof to these Indentures . the Stuard*es* of aither of the seid Craft*es* in the name of theire occupac*i*on ent*er*chaungably haue sette theire Seall*es* These beyng witnesse Thomas Smyth Maire of the Citie of Chest*er* Thomas Colburne & Cristofer Werinycham Shirreff*es* of the [same] Citie aforeseid & mony other Yeuen at the Citie of Chest*er* aforsed the daye & yere aboue rehersed

1523–4

Petition of the Cappers to the Mayor and Aldermen BL: Harley MS 1996 single sheet*

To the right worshipffull & ffull Discrete Dauid Myddelton Maire of the
Citie of Chest*er* And his Cobrethren & Aldermen of the same

Humbly shewen vnto yo*ur* gode Maystershipp*es* yo*ur* pou*er* supplyaunt*es* &

besechers the Cappers of this Citie that where as they of late tyme by the right worshipffull Thomas Smythe in tyme of hys Mairealtie were on*er*ated & charged to brynge forthe A playe conc*er*nynge the store of kynge balak & Balam the p*ro*ffet/ And at the same tyme by the sayd Thomas Smythe & hys Cobrethren it was p*ro*mysed that where as yo*ur* sayd pou*er* supplyaunt*es* ffonde theyme grevyde & gretely hurtyd and impou*er*yshed/ by reason/ that not only the Mercers of the Sayde Citie but as well dyu*er*se others occupac*i*ons of the same Citie/ do dayly occupye theire sayd occupac*i*on as well in reteyllynge of cowrse wares vnd*er* the p*ri*ce of xvj of the dossen as aboue/ And as yet no reformac*i*on therof can be had/ All thaghe they therfore haue made greate instance & request as well to yo*ur* Maystership now in yo*ur* tyme of mayrealtie as to others yo*ur* p*re*decessors as is aforesayd It may please yo*ur* gode Maystershipps considerynge the greate & importable hurt*es* & hyndraunces of yo*ur* sayd pou*er* supplyaunt*es* whiche be but verrey pou*er* men & haue no thynge to lyve by but their sayd occupac*i*on/ other to see for due & lauffull reformac*i*on of the p*re*mysses or ell*es* to exon*er*ate & discharge theyme of & for the bryngynge forthe of the sayd playe/ Wheof they wolde be right sorye/ yf the meanes myght be fonde that they myght be hable to brynge it forthe/ And the remedye therof lyethe myche in yo*ur* maystershipp*es* if it wolde please you of yo*ur* godenes to putte yo*ur* ^⌜gode⌝ wyllez & myndes thervnto/ ffor the ffull & holle myndes & consent*es* of all & eu*ery* yo*ur* sayd besechers is now & at all tymes to come shall be to brynge forthe theire sayd playe And that in theire best man*er* to the [worship] pleasure of god worship of Mayst*er* Maire & this Citie Wherfore they beseche you of yo*ur* charite other to se for the reformac*i*on of the p*re*mysses/ or ell*es* to take no displeasure w*ith* theyme if they for lakke of habilitie do not brynge forthe theire sayd play/ And this at the reu*er*ence of god and they shall daylye praye to god for you &c.

1529–30

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 34v* *(15 October–14 October)*

...

the play called k*ing* Rob*er*t of Cicell was playd at the high crosse...

...

A ***Mayors List 9*** BL: Additional MS 29777
mb [10] *(15 October–14 October)*

...

In this yeare an Enterlude named kinge Roberte of Scissill was playde at the highe Crosse in Chester...

...

17/ Wheof: *for* Wherof

1531–2

Assembly Orders CCALS: ZAF 1

f 11* *(14 August)*

M⟨..⟩orand*um* that the xiiij$^{\text{th}}$ day of August in the xxii⟨...⟩ kyng henry the eight It was condescended & agreed befor ⟨...⟩ of the Citie of Ches*ter* in the Pentice of the same Citie ⟨...⟩ Will*iam* Bexwik Stiwardez of the occupac*io*n of vynten*ers* Withi⟨...⟩ kettell & Thomas hasilwall Stiwardez of the occupac*io*n of ⟨...⟩ of thone p*ar*tie & Iohn Treuo*ur* goldsmyth Stiward of thoccupac⟨...⟩ Wosewall Stiward of the occupac*io*n of mason within the Citi⟨...⟩ thother p*ar*tie in forme folowyng That is to witt The said*es* S⟨...⟩ & diers for theym & their Successo*urs* be agreid & g*r*aunten by these p*re*sentes ⟨...⟩ Stiwardez of Goldsmythez & masons & their Successo*urs* from hensforth shall occupie & pecible enioy frome tyme to tyme the Cariage nowe of the ⟨...⟩ Vynten*ers* & Diers to & for the plaiez of the said*es* Goldsmythes & masons & ⟨...⟩ Successo*urs* to be plaied at Whitsontide to *ser*ue theym for their saides ⟨...⟩ when & as oft as nede shall require without eny lett of the said*es* ⟨...⟩ of Vynten*ers* & Diers or their Successo*urs* ffor whiche Cariage so in man*ner* ⟨...⟩ Abouesaid to the said*es* Stiwardez of Goldsmythes & masons & their Su⟨...⟩ g*r*aunted to & for their saidez plaiez frome tyme to tyme as is afor⟨...⟩ said*es* Stiwardez of goldsmythez & masons [from] for theymself & th⟨...⟩ ben agreid couena*u*nten & g*r*aunten by these p*re*sent*es* to content ⟨...⟩ cause to be paid vnto the said*es* Stiwardez of Vynten*ers* & Diers ⟨...⟩ ste*r*ling at the makyng herof/ And from hensforth yerely ⟨...⟩ fynd kepe & susteyn the Thrid p*ar*te of all & eu*ery* rep*ar*ac*io*n ⟨...⟩ necessariez belongyng or in eny wise app*er*teynyng to the same ⟨...⟩ shall require & also to content & pay or cause to be paid yerely from the thrid p*ar*t of all the rent*es* due or to be due for the house wher⟨...⟩ said Cariage now standeth or heraft*er* shall stand

f 12*

The p*ro*clamac*io*n for the plaies newly made by Will*iam* Newhall ⟨...⟩
pentice the first yere of his entre

fforasm⟨...⟩ as of old tyme not only for the Augmentac*io*n & incres ⟨...⟩ faith of o⟨..⟩ ⟨.⟩auyo*ur* ie*s*u Crist & to exort the mynd*es* of the co*m*mon people ⟨...⟩ doctryne th⟨...⟩f but also for the co*m*menwelth & p*ro*sp*er*itie of this

---

32/ ⟨...⟩: RH II *read* clarke of the

35/ fforasm⟨...⟩: RH II *read* for as much

35/ ⟨...⟩: RH II *read* of the holy & Catholick

36/ o⟨..⟩ ⟨.⟩auyo*ur*: RH II *read* our Sauiour

37/ ⟨...⟩: RH II *read* to good deuotion & holsome

37/ th⟨...⟩f: RH II *read* therof

Citie a play ⟨…⟩ & diu*er*se stor⟨…⟩ of the bible begynnyng with the creac*i*on & fall of Lucifer & endy ⟨…⟩ iugement of th⟨.⟩ world to be declared & plaied in the Witsonweke was devised & m ⟨…⟩ henry ffrauns*es* ⌈°somtyme°⌉ monk of this ^⌈°dissolued°⌉ monesty who obteyned & gate of Clement then beyng ⟨…⟩ daiez of p*ar*⟨…⟩ & of the Busshop of Chest*er* at that tyme beyng xl^{ti} daiez of p*ar*don g ⟨…⟩ thensforth ⟨..⟩ eu*er*y p*er*son resortyng in pecible man*ner* with gode devoc*i*on to here & se the s⟨…⟩ frome tyme to tyme asoft as they shalbe plaied within this Citie [And that eu*er*y p*er*son ⟨…⟩ disturbyng the same plaiez in eny man*ner* wise to be accursed by thauctoritie of the s⟨…⟩ pope cleme⟨…⟩ bull*es* vnto suche tyme as he or they be absolued therof/] Whiche plaiez were d⟨…⟩ to the hono*ur* of god by Iohn arneway then mair of this Citie of chest*er* & his brethern & holl co*m*in*a*l⟨..⟩ therof to be bro⟨…⟩ forthe declared & plaid at the Cost*es* & chargez of the craft*es* men & occupac*i*ons of ⟨…⟩ said Citi⟨.⟩ whiche hitherunto haue from tyme to tyme vsed & p*er*formed the same accordin⟨…⟩

Wherefore Maist*er* mair in the kyngez name straitly chargeth & co*m*maundeth that eu*er*y p*er*son & ⟨…⟩ of what esta⟨..⟩ degre or condic*i*on so eu*er* he ⟨..⟩ they be resortyng to the said plaiez do vse th⟨…⟩ pecible witho⟨..⟩ ⟨.⟩akyng eny assault affrey or other disturbans wherby the same ⟨…⟩ shalbe disturbed & that no man*ner* p*er*son or p*er*sons who so eu*er* he or they be do vse or we ⟨…⟩ Vnlaufull wepons within the p*re*cynct of the said Citie duryng the tyme of the said p⟨…⟩ [not only opon payn of cursyng by thauctoritie of the said Pope Clement bull*es* but also] opon payn of enprisonment of their bodiez & makyng fyne to the kyng at maist*er* mairis pleasure ⟨…⟩ god saue the kyng & maist*er* mair &c.

p*er* me W*illelmum* Newhall fact*um* temp*ore*
Will*elm*o Sneyde drap*er* secu*n*do temp*ore*
sui maiora*litatis*

1/ ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* & declaration
1/ stor⟨…⟩: RH II *read* storyes
2/ endy ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* ending with the generall
3/ m ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* made by one S*ir*
4/ monesty: *for* monest*ery; abbreviation mark omitted*
5/ ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* bushop of rome a iooo
5/ par⟨…⟩: RH II *read* pardon
6/ g ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* graunted from
6/ ⟨..⟩: RH II *read* to
7/ s⟨…⟩: RH II *read* sayd playes
8/ ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* or persons
9/ s⟨…⟩: RH II *read* sayd
10/ cleme⟨…⟩: RH II *read* clemants
11/ d⟨…⟩: RH II *read* deuised
12/ cominal⟨..⟩: RH II *read* cominalty
13/ bro⟨…⟩: RH II *read* brought
14/ ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* the
15/ accordin⟨…⟩: RH II *read* acordingly
17/ ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* persons
17/ esta⟨..⟩: RH II *read* estate
17/ ⟨..⟩: RH II *read* or
18/ th⟨…⟩: RH II *read* themselues
18/ witho⟨..⟩ ⟨.⟩akyng: RH II *read* w*it*hout making
19/ ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* playes
20/ we ⟨…⟩: RH II *read* weare any
22/ p⟨…⟩: RH II *read* play
27/ Will*elmo*: *for* Willelmi

AC ***Holy Trinity Churchwardens' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2177
f 19v* *(Lands given to the church)*

…

Impr*imis* a howse in the Greyfrerys lane lyinge next to the grey frers gate except 2 howses to put Charyches in.

…

1533–4

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 50v *(13 August)* *(Northgate Street)*

…

The occupac*i*on of smeythys for A place to sett ther Carage
°Dillys Tower° adioynyng to the Shermen vnder the Wall*es* nygh vnto A
toure Cauled the Dyllys towre iiij d.
The occupac*i*on of the Shermen for A place to set ther Carage iiij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Company Charter BL: Harley MS 2054
single sheet* *(1 May)*

…& for as much as þe seu*er*all crafts arts & facultis of Painters Glassiers Imbrauderers & Stationeres haue by thesse humbel petec*i*on desired þ*a*t þe might bee incorpu*r*eted into one body by grant vnd*er* þe citty seale/ It also app*er*einge to vs þ*a*t þe haue bine tyme out of minde one Brotherhood for the costs & Expences of þe plae of þe shepp*er*ds Wach w*i*th þe Angells hyme & likewayes for otherr layinge out conserninge þe wellferr & p*ro*sp*er*etie of þe saide citty// It is therfore orderred & declarred bie Iointe *con*sent of vs þe Maior Aldermen & com*m*on consell þ*a*t þe s*ai*d*e* Painters Glassiers Imbrauderreres & Stationers & therre succesors from hence forth & foreu*er* shalbee taken & reputed as one speciall *com*pany of þe s*ai*d citty…

…

c 1534

Dutton Family Holdings CCALS: DDX 23/1
f [2v]*

The aduocar' of mynstrell' &c of
all chesterchire By dede a*nno* xviij E*dward* iij

…

12/ smeythys: *corrected from* shermen

15/ Shermen: *3 minims for* n *in* MS

1535–6

Grant to Sir Piers Dutton Bodl.: MS. Dodsworth 39

ff 114v–15*

...

...the s*ai*d S*i*r Peirs dutton | Peirs dutton now liueing shall haue hold & enioy fro*m* hence forth to him and his heires males lawfully begotten the lo*rdsh*ips manors Land*es* ten*ementes* & other heredita*mentes* hereafter ensueing that ys to say the man*o*r of dutton w*i*th thapp*ur*tenanc*es* & all the me*ssu*ages Land*es* ten*ementes* meadowes ward*es* and pastures in dutton & Aston neere dutton w*i*th the aduoure of Minstreel*es* of the County of Chester & the aduowson of the chappell of Pulsey...

...

1538–9

Property List of the Carmelite Friars TNA: PRO SC 6/Henry VIII/7384

mb [82]

...

Reddi*tus* domus Carpentarij ib*ide*m p*ro* Pagentibus suis imponend*is* *(blank)*...

1539–40

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

f 33

...

The occupac*i*on of tailliore*s* for a Cariage house iiij d.

...

The occupac*i*on of the Sadlers for a place called truant*es* hole by yere iiij d.

...

f 40v *(Grey Friars Lane)*

...

The occupac*i*on of the drap*er*s for a c*er*ten place to bild a house on which they put ther Cariage in nyghe to ye yate of the ffreres minor*es* by yere viij d.

The occupac*i*on of the mercers for a certen place to bild A house on in the which the put ther caryage vj d.

...

5/ Peirs dutton^{1}: *catchword*

ff 64–5* *(10 January)*

In the tyme of ⟨...⟩ beyng mayre of the King*es* Citie of Chester
in the xxxj[j] yere of Kinge Henry Theght

for shooting in long Bowes ^⌜°this citty⌝ beinge of ould famous for it°

For asmoche As by the ffeate and ex*er*cise of the King*es* subiect*es* of this his Realme of Englond in shouting in longe bouz ther hath contynually rison & growen & ben w*ith*in the said gret multytude of good Archers/ which hath not onelye defendid this Relme & the subieckt*es* therof Ageynest the cruell malyse & danger of ther outward enymyes in tyme hertofore passed/ But allso wyth lytell nomber and pussance in Regarde haue done manye noble octes And discomfitur*es* of warre Ageynest the Infidels & others/ And furthermore subdued & Redused dyu*ers* and manye Regions & countries to ther due obeysaunce to the greate honor fame & Suertie of this relme And subict*es* of the same And to the teryble drede and fere of all strange Nacyons Any thyng to attempt or do to the hurte or damage of them or eny of them/ And albyit thad dyu*er*se good statut*es* and ordenaunc*es* be p*ro*uided as Well in the tyme of our Right dere Souering Lorde Kinge Henry the eyght now being as in tyme of his noble p*ro*genitors King*es* of this Realme cons*er*ning th mantenaunce of archary and shouting in Long Boues/ yet neu*er*theles archari and shouting in Longe boues is Lyttyll vsed but Dalye menyssheth decayeth and abaytyth mor and more to the grete subu*er*sion of the com*m*on Welthe of this the King*es* Realme and His Louing subict*es* of the same & to the greate bouldenes of all outward enymyes Geuing all childryn yonge men and all other to exc*er*sise the same fete smaule corage to vse the same/ But other Vnlaufull gaymes p*ro*hibeted by the King*es* highnez and His Laues In tender consederacion of Which most godlye feate & ex*er*cise in shouting in longe bouez and for Reformacion of the saide inconuenient*es* and dyu*er*se other happening Sodenly opon many gode & laudable vsagez Afore tyme vsid Wherof hath Rison & dary dothe & is lyke to do greate enui malys and other inconuenient*es*/ And to thentent to set fourth and p*re*ferre The Same godlye feate and ex*er*cyse of shoouting in Longe boues and to Reveve the saide auncent fayme of this the King*es* citie of Chester It is ordenyd Assentyd & Agreid by henry Gee mayre of the Citie of chester the ald*er*men sheriff*es* and comon Counsell of the Same Citie And at an Assimble houlden W*ith*in the Said citie In the pentyce ther the tent daye of Ianuarij In the xxxj yere of the Reing of our most Dere Souereng Lorde now being Kynge henry theyght Wyth Ther full assent and Consent and allso of the hole occupacyons of Drapers Sadlers and shoumaykers of *(blank)* | Wythin the Saide Citie That the said occupac*i*ons of shoumacres Which Alwayez tyme out of mannz Remembraunc haue geuen and delyu*er*id

°An order for ye sports on shroftusday & agreed on by ye drapers, sadlers & showmakers°

4/ xxxj[j]: *for* 31; *first* j *corrected from* i
7/ the said: *for* the said relme
13–15m/ this ... it: *in* RH II*'s hand*
18/ th: *for* the
32–8m/ An order ... showmakers: *in* RH II*'s hand*

yerlye vpon teuesday Com*m*only caulyd shroft teuesday otherwyse Gottedesday at Aft*er* nonne of the same vnto the drapars Afore the mayre of the citie at the cros vpon the Rode hee one bale of Lether Caulyd a fout baule of the value of iij s. iiij d. or Aboue to pley at from thens to the Comon haule of the Said Citie And further At pleasure of euill Disposid p*er*sons// Wherfore hath Ryssyn grete Inconuenynce ffromhensforth shall yerlye vpon the said Teuesday geue and delyuer Vnto the said Drapars Afore the mayre of the Said Citie for the tyme being at the Said playce and tyme Syx ⌈°gleaues°⌉ of Silu*er* to the value of eu*ery* of them vj d., or Aboue to the order at the discresion of the Drapars and the mayre of the said citie for the tyme being To whom shall Run best and fvrthest vpon foute befor them Vpon the said Rode hee that Day or anye other Daye after at the Drap*er*es pleasure w*ith* the ou*er*sight of the mayre for the tyme being/ And allso that the Said occupacion of sadlers w*ith*in the Said Citie Which be all the same tyme of no mans Remembrance haue geuin & delyuerid yerlye the said place & tyme eu*ery* mast*er* of them vnto the said Drapers ofor the mayre for the tyme being Apayntyd Baule of Wood w*ith* floures and armes vpon the poynte of a spere Being goodly Arayd vpon hors bake Accordingly fromhensforth shall the said teusday houre & place gyue & delyuer vnto the said drapars Afor the mayre for the tyme being vpon horsbak a bell of Syluer to the valu of – iij s. iiij d. or Aboue to be ordred as is aforsaid by the Dapr*es* & the mayre of the said citie for the tyme Being to Whome shall Rune best & furthest vpon horsbak before them the said Daye tyme & place/ And that allso eu*ery* man that hayth bene maryed w*ith*in the Said Citie Sithns Shraff teusday last past shall vpon the said Shrafft teusday next to com At the said tyme & place geue and Delyuer vnto the said Draprs Afor the mayre now being An Arrow of Siluer To the value of fyue pence or Aboue in value & Recompence of Such baule of Silke or veluit/ which he being maryed As is Aforsaid should or ought then to gyue or delyuer according | And by the auncient & laudable vse and costome of the sayde Citie by all the same tyme of no mans Remembranc to the Contrarye vsed & Approuid/ And that also ffrom hensforth eu*ery* man Which herafter shalbe maryed w*ith*in the said Citie Shall in Lyke manar vpon the said Shraff teusday next after his maryage at the said tyme and place Geue & delyuer vnto the sad*es* drapers Afor the mayre of the said Citie for the tyme being A Lyke arrow of Syluer to the value of v d. or aboue in Recompenc of the said baule of Silke or veluit vsed and accostomyd to be geuen & delyu*ery*d as is aforesaid/ Which arroues of Silu*er* so to be geuen & delyuerid in Recompence of the said baules of sylke or veluit In manar & forme Aforsaid shall from hensforth yerly that daye or other dayes After be ordred by the said Draprs & the mayre for the tyme being to & for ye pr*e*ferment and setting forth of the Said fete/

8/ gleaues: *in RH II's hand*

And ex*er*cyse of shouting in Longe boues And in Avoyding of the said*es* Inconuenyent*es* eny vse p*re*scripc*i*on or other thing*es* Afore tyme hadde & vsed to the contrary herof not w*ith*standing And further it is orderid and fully assentyd that the said occupac*i*on of draprs & ther Sucssesors shall from hensforth kepe & p*er*forme this ordenanc*es* and eu*ery* Artycle therin conteynid in manar and form [folouing] Aforsaid ordred & mayde/ And allso the said drap*er*s And ther Sucssessors shall kepe yerly ther recreacyon and Drinking in Lyke manar and forme as the same occupac*i*ons and ther p*re*decessors tyme out of mynd haue vsed to do w*ith*out eny cont*ra*dicc*i*on or lett/ And that allso the said occupacion of Shoumacres & thaocupacyon of Sadlers & ther Successors and allso eu*ery* man now being maryed and herafter to be maryed w*ith*in the said Cytie as is Aforsaid and eu*ery* of them shall in Lyke manar obserue and kepe this ordinaunce and eu*ery* orticle therof yerlye from hensforth from tyme to tyme w*ith* out anye gruge Let or contradiccion vpon payne of eu*ery* of Them So offending to forfyt to the ald*er*men and stewarde*s* of tha occupacion of Drapars for the tyme being x li. tocius quocius w*ith*out any pardon therof or any p*ar*cill therof according to The auncyent & Laudable Costome & vsage of the said Citie Allwayes vsed And Approuid

Sheriffs' Rolls CCALS: ZSR 542
mb [6]* *(11 June)*

...

xj^o^ die Iunij
p*er* Ioh*ann*em
Throp

¶ Iohannes Cowp*er* pistor Aldermanus Art*is* pistor*um* Ciuitatis Cestr*ie* Ioh*ann*es Smythe et Will*el*m*us* fflecher pistores Senescalli eiusd*em* Art*is* queru*ntur* de Ioh*ann*e Bruyn de pl*ac*ito *trans*gressionis ˄⌈ad d⟨…⟩ C s.⌉ pleg*ius* de p*rosequendo* Ioh*ann*es Cut & def*endens* sum*monitus* fuit ad respond*endum* &c. quer*entes* po*nunt* loco suo Ioh*ann*em Throp & def*endens* po*nit* loco suo Thoma*m* Baildon Et vnde ijdem quer*entes* p*er* Ioh*ann*em Throp Attorn*atum* suu*m* p*re*d*ic*tu*m* dicu*nt* q*uod* p*re*d*ic*ta Ciuitas Cestr*ie* est et a temp*ore* quo non existat memoria fuit antiqua Ci*uitas* q*uo*dque in ead*em* Ci*uita*te h*ab*et*ur* & a toto temp*ore* sup*ra*d*ic*to h*ab*ebat*ur* t*a*lis consuetudo videl*ice*t q*uo*d ho*min*es Art*is* siue Mist*er*ij pistor*um* & pistores in ead*em* Ci*uita*te moram t*ra*hent*es* ac Ciues eiusd*em* existent*es* vsi fueru*nt* de anno in Annu*m* p*er* totu*m* id*em* tempus de seip*s*is elig*er*e et elig*er*e consueueru*nt* die do*min*ica p*roxima* post fest*um* s*anc*ti Dionisij vnu*m* ho*min*em art*is* pistor*um* et Ciuem eiusdem Ci*uitat*is in Ald*er*manu*m* Necnon duos ho*min*es pistores et Ciues Ci*uitat*is illius Sen*escall*os art*is* p*re*d*ic*te Qui quid*em* Aldermanu*s* et Sen*escall*i sic elect*i* in Aldermanu*m* & Sen*escall*os art*is* p*re*d*ic*te in officio Alderman*i* & Sen*escall*orum art*is* illius in Ci*uita*te p*re*dict*a* p*ro* anno sequent*i* post eoru*m*

2/ Inconuenyent*es*: *1 minim for first* n *in* MS

elecc*ionem* Iurat*i* fueru*n*t & extiteru*n*t p*er* totu*m* annu*m* illu*m* Et q*uo*d p*re*d*ic*ti Alderman*us* & Sen*escall*i p*ro* temp*or*e existen*tes* h*ab*eru*n*t & h*ab*ere consueueru*n*t sup*er*visu*m* correcc*ion*em ordinac*ion*em et reformac*ion*es o*mn*i*u*m & o*mn*imod*orum* defect*uum* delictor*um* et offensor*um* p*er* quoscu*n*q*ue* Art*is* eiusd*em* cont*r*a consuetudines & ordinac*ion*es int*er* pistores p*re*dict*os* laudabilit*er* vsitat*as* & ordinat*as* delinqu*entes* & eos & eor*um* quemlib*e*t p*ro* huiusmod*i* delict*is* defectub*us* & offensis p*er* pena*m* pecuniariam castigand*o* Et insup*er* q*uo*d p*er* totu*m* id*e*m tempus in Ci*uita*te p*re*d*ic*ta vsitat*um* fuit q*uo*d si aliquis forinsecus siue extraneus aut Ciuis Ci*uita*t*is* p*re*d*ic*te qui artem pistor*um* in Ci*uita*te p*re*d*ic*ta p*re*cinctu siue lib*er*tate eiusd*em* & non p*er* Alderman*um* et sen*escall*os p*ro* temp*ore* existent*es* *secun*d*u*m consuetud*inem* p*re*dict*am* ad Artem p*re*d*ic*tam Admissus fu*er*it vteret*ur* Arte illa sine licencia & assensu eor*um*d*e*m Alderman*i* & sen*escall*orum p*er* q*uo*d h*uius*mod*i* forinsecus siue extraneus Aut Ciuis eiusd*em* Ci*uita*t*is* Artem illam ib*id*em ex*er*cens sine licenc*ia* & assensu h*uius*mod*i* puniri debuit & am*er*ciari p*ro* qualib*e*t vice h*uius*mod*i* delict*i* siue offens*i* tociens quociens Et insup*er* p*er* totu*m* idem tempus in d*ic*ta Ciuitate vsitat*um* fuit q*uo*d Alderman*us* et sen*escall*i Art*is* p*re*d*ic*te existen*tes* h*ab*erent sect*am* & acc*ion*em de t*r*ans*gressione* vel deb*ito* ad pl*acit*u*m* eor*um* vsq*ue* h*uius*mod*i* delinquent*es* in p*re*miss*is* ad leuand*um* h*uius*mod*i* su*m*mas siue Am*er*ciame*nta* forisfact*as* delinquent*ibus* in forma sequent*i* applicand*o* videl*ice*t vna*m* medietate*m* inde ad sustent*acionem* luminaris Corp*or*is Chr*ist*i ho*minu*m & diu*er*sor*um* ludor*um* in eadem Ci*uita*te ad mis*as* et expens*as* p*re*d*ic*tor*um* Ald*er*man*i* & sen*escall*orum inueniend*orum* Et alt*er*am medietatem inde d*omi*no Regi Et vlt*er*ius ijd*em* Alderman*us* et Sen*escall*i dicu*n*t q*uo*d p*re*d*ic*tus def*endens* qui nu*n*q*uam* ad artem illam pistor*um* *secun*d*u*m consuetud*inem* p*re*dict*am* p*er* Alderman*um* et Sen*escall*os seu p*re*dicessores suos Admiss*us* fuisset vsus fuit mist*er*ia et Arte pistoris in Ci*uita*te p*re*d*ic*ta et diu*ersos* panes videl*ice*t CCCCC panes p*er* ips*u*m in Ci*uita*te p*re*d*ic*ta format*os* & panificat*os* diu*ersis* lig*eis* d*omi*ni Reg*is* videl*ice*t d*omi*no Ioh*ann*i Byrkenshaw quond*a*m Abb*a*ti nup*er* Monast*er*ij *Sanc*t*e* Werburge Cestr*ie* dissolut*i* & alijs diu*ersis* p*er*sonis vicesimo die Iunij Anno regni d*omi*ni Reg*is* nu*n*c henrici octaui dei gr*aci*a Angl*ie* et ffranc*ie* Reg*is* fidei defensoris d*omi*ni hib*er*n*ie* et in terr*a* sup*re*mi Capit*is* Anglicane Eccl*es*ie xxxj^{o} Apud Cestr*iam* in Com*itatu* Ci*uitatis* Cestr*ie* & infra lib*er*tates eiusd*e*m vendidit continuando t*r*ans*gressionem* p*re*d*ic*tam A p*re*d*ic*t*o* xx^{o} die Iunij vsq*ue* diem intrac*ion*is querele p*re*d*ic*t*e* cont*r*a consuetud*inem* p*re*d*ic*tam &c ad d*a*m*n*a v li. &c Et inde p*ro*ducu*n*t sectam &c

…

10/ artem: *for* artem exercuerit

33/ domini: n *corrected over other letters (?)*

Order for the City Waits BL: Harley MS 2150
single sheet

...

°An order for Citty Waytes when to play & not when the list°

°on Sunday munday Tusday thursday and Saterday in the eueninge°

°on munday Thursday and Saturday in the morninge°

Also where as the waytes of this Citie ought to *ser*ue and [s] Applie their facultie with diligent attendaunce in goode ordre for the w*or*ship and pleasure of the Citie and for bycause that no certen of ordre Owres nor tymes hath heretofore beyn especially lemytted vnto theym they haue for the moost p*ar*t vsed toke their owne lib*er*tiez and to goo/ & not goo when it pleased best theym selff*es* wherby good ordre hath not beyn obs*er*ued ner the Citie by theym *ser*ued as they ought to be/ wherby it is ordeyned that from hensforth eu*ery* sonday monday tuysday thursday and saturday the said waites shall goo Aboute and play in the evenyng in suche circuite placys and Owres as hath beyn accustomed in tymes past/ And eu*ery* monday thursday & saturday in the mornyng they shall goo and play in lyke maner/ And this rule and ordre to be kept contynually heraftur except that speciall sickenes or extreme weddur lett theym or ellz that Appon some other their resonable sute to be moved vnto the Mair and his bretheryn they obteyne lycence for A ceason as case shall require

...

The White Book of the Pentice BL: Harley MS 2150
ff 85v–8v*

...

These be the craftys of the Citie the whiche craftys bere the charge of the pagyns in pley of corpus chr*isti* [p*en*a] ⌈°pena°⌉ x li. & °were the Auntient whitson playes in chester sett out at the charges of theis occupations yearly playd on munday Tewsday & wensday in whitson weeke beinge first Inuented & putt into English by Rand*le* Higden a monck of chester Abby°

Barkers or tanners	the falling of lucyfer
Drap*ers* and hosiers	the creac*i*on of the world
Drawers of dee & wat*er*leders	Noy and his Ship
Barbers ‸⌈°wax°⌉ chandlers and leches °or Surgions°	Abram & Isack
Capp*ers* wyerdrawers & pynners	kyng balac & balame w*ith* moysez
wright slaters tylers dowbers & thacchors	Natiuitie of o*ur* Lord
Paynters brotheres & glasiours	the Shep*ards* offeryng

4–7m/ An order ... list: *in RH II's hand*
8–12m/ on Sunday ... eueninge: *in RH II's hand*
13–16m/ on munday ... morninge: *in RH II's hand*
25/ [pena]: *deleted by RH II*
32/ Noy: N *corrected from another letter*
33/ Barbers: b *corrected from* k

Vynters & m*ar*chaunt*es*	king herod & the mount victoriall
Mercers & spycers	iij king*es* of Colyn °Colen°

These ix playes ‸⌈°and pagents°⌉ Aboue written be plaid on the fyrst day

Goldsmythis & masons	the sleying of the children of Isarell °by ‸⌈Herod°⌉
Smythes ffurbours °⌊furbisher⌋ ⌈or cutlers⌉° & pewters	purificac*i*on of o*u*r Lady
Bochers	the pynacle w*i*t*h* the woman of canany
glauers & p*ar*chement makers	the rising of Lasare from deth to lyff
Corvesers °or showmakers°	the comyng of crist to Ierusalem
Bakers & mylners	crist*es* monday where he sat w*i*t*h* his Appo*st*l*e*s
Bowers fflecchers stryngers cowp*er*s & t*ur*ners	Scorgyng of cryst
Ironmongers and rop*er*s	crusyfing of [god] °Christ°
Cokes tapsters & hostelers °& Inkeepers°	the harowyng of hell

Theze ix playes ‸⌈°or pagents°⌉ Aboue writen be plaid apon the secund day/

Skynners cardmakers hatt*er*s poynters & gyrdlers	the resurrecc*i*on
Sadlers ffusters	castell of Amyas ⌈°Emaus°⌉ & the Appo*st*l*e*s
Tailers	Assenc*i*on of crist/
fflesshe mong*er*s	whitsonday the making of the crede
Shermen	p*ro*fettys Afore the day of dome
hewst*er*s & belfounders	Antecrist
Weyuers & walkers	domez day

plaid Appon the thrid |

On corpus chr*ist*i day the collegis and prestys bryng forth A play at the Assentement of the Maire/

3/ Colyn: *underlined by* RH II
20/ [god]: *deleted by* RH II
27/ Amyas: *underlined by* RH II
30/ fflesshe: *first* s *corrected from* x

Prouided Alwais that it is at the lib*er*tie and pleasure of the mair w*ith* the counsell of his bretheryn to Alter or Assigne any of the occupacons Aboue writen [Aboue] to any play or pagent as they shall think necessary or conuenyent/

ffor asmyche as of old tyme not only for the Augmentac*i*on & incresse of the holy and catholyk ffaith of our sauyo*ur* cryst Iesu and to exhort the myndes of the comen peple to gud deuoc*i*on and holsom doctryne ther of but Also for the comen welth and p*ro*speritie of this Citie A play and declarac*i*on of many and dyuers stories of the bible begynnyng w*ith* the creac*i*on & fall of lūcifer & endyng w*ith* the gene*r*all Iugement of the world to be declared & playde now in this whison weke/ whiche playes were deuised to the hono*ur* of god by Iohn Arneway sometyme Maire of this Citie of Ches*ter* & his bretheryn & holl comynaltie therof to be brought forth declared and plaid at the costys of the craftys men and occupacons of the said Citie whiche herunto haue from tyme to tyme vsyd and p*er*formed the same Accordingly/ wherfore m*aste*r Mair in the king*es* name straitly chargith and comaundyth that eu*ery* p*er*son and p*er*sons of what astate degree or condic*i*on so eu*er* he or they be resorting to the said playes do vse theym selff peceably without making any Assault Afrey or other disturbans wherby the same playes shalbe disturbed & that no man*ner* p*er*son or p*er*sons who euer he or they be do vse or weyre eny vnlaufull vepans w*ith*in the p*re*cinct of the said Citie duryng the tyme of the said playes Apon peyne of imprisonyment of theire bodies and making fyne to the king at Maisters Maires pleasure/ ‸⌈°and°⌉ god saue the kyng, m*aste*r maisr °Mayre etc°

The comen bannes to be p*ro*claymed & Ryddon w*ith* thȩ stewardys of eu*ery* occupac*i*on

Lording*es* Royall and Reuerentt
Louely ladies that here be lentt
Sou*er*eigne Citizins hether am I sent
A message for to say/

I pray you all that be p*re*sent
That you will here w*ith* good intent
And lett your eares to be lent
Hertffull I you pray

2, 15/ occupacons: *for* occupacions; *abbreviation mark omitted*
25/ maisr: *for* maister *(?); corrected by* RH II *from* mair; *the correction and interpolation resulting in dittography*
25/ Mayre: *written over other letters*

Our wurshipffull mair of this Citie
with all this Royall co*min*altie
Solem pagens ordent hath he
At the fest of whitsonday tyde

how eu*ery* craft in his decree
bryng forth their playes Solemplye
I shall declare you brefely
yf ye will Abyde A while |

°Tanners°
The ^⌜wor*shipffu*ll⌝ tanners of thys towne
Bryng forth the heuenly mansh*i*on
Thorders of Angellz and theire crea*ci*on
According done to the best
And when thangellz be made so clere
Then folowyth the falling of lucifere
To bryng forth this play w*ith* good chere
The tanners be full prest

°Drapers & hosiers°
You wurshipffull men of the draperye
loke that paradyce be all redye
Prepare also the mappa mundi
Adam and eke eve

°waterleaders and drawers of dee°
The water leders and drawers of dee
loke that noyes shipp be sett on hie
that you lett not the storye
And then shall you well cheue.

°Barbursurgions and Tallow chandlers°
The barbers and wax chaundlers also that day
of the patriarche you shall play
Abram that putt was to Assay
To sley Isack his sonne

°Cappers and linnen drapers°
The cappers & pynners forth shall bryng
balack that fears and mightie kyng
And balam on An Asse sytting
Loke that this be done

°wryghts and slaters°
youe wrightys and slaters wilbe fayne
bryng forth yo*ur* cariage of marie myld quene

11/ thys: *altered by* RH II *from* theis

12/ mansh*i*on: *altered by* RH II *from* manc*i*on

And of octavyan so cruell and kene
And also of Sybell the sage
for fynding of that Royall thing
I graunt you all the blessing
of the high imperiall king
Both the maist*er* and his page

°Paynters Imbrautherers & glasiers°

Paynters glasiars & broderers in fere
Haue taken on theym w*ith* full good chere
That the Sheppard*es* play then shall appere
And that with right good wyll

°marchants and vinteners°

°The vynteners then as doth befall
bringe forth the 3 kings Royall
of Colyn or pagent memoryall
and worthy to apperȩ
there shall you see how thos kyngs all
Came bouldly into the hall
before Herald proude in paulle
of Crysts byrth to heare |

°marcers°

The mercers wor*shipff*ull of degre
the p*re*sentation that haue yee
hit fallyth best for your see
by right reason & skyle
of caryage I haue no doubt
both w*i*thin and also without
it shall be deckyd y*a*t all the Rowte
full gladly on it shall be to loke
w*i*th sondry Cullors it shall shine
of veluit satten & damaske fyne
Taffyta Sersnett of poppyngee grene

°Goldsmyths and masons°

The gouldsmyths then full soone will hye
& massons theyre Craft to magnyfye
theis 2 Crafts will them applye
theyre worshipp for to wyne
how herode king of Galalye
for that Intent Cryst to distrye

p 83, l.13–p 85, l.19/ The vynteners … wytsonday it hight: *in RH II's hand*
14m/ vinteners: i *corrected from* e

Slew the Inosents most Cruely
of tow yers & within

°Smyths furbors and Pewterers° Semely Smythis also in Syght
a louely Caryage the will dyght
Candilmas day for soth it hyght
the find it w*i*th good will

°Butchers° The butchers pagend shall not be myst
how Satan temped our Sauyour Cryst
it is an history of the best
as wittneseth the gospell

°glouers° Nedys must I rehers the glouer
the giue me gloues and gay gere
the find the Toumbe of Lazarey
that pagend cometh next

°Coruisers or Showmakers° also the Coruesers w*i*th all their myght
the fynde a full fayre syght
Ierusalem their Caryage hyght
for so sayth the text

°Bakers and milners° and the bakers also be dene
the find the Maunday as I wene
it is a Carriage full well besene
as then it shall appeare |

°Coupers Stringers flechers Bowyers and Turners Ironmongers and Ropers° flechers bowyers w*i*th great honors
the Cowp*er*s find the Tormentors
that bobbyde god w*i*th gret horrors
as he sat in his chere
The yronmongers find a Caryage good
how Iesu dyed on ye Rode
and shed for vs his precyus blud
the find it in fere

°Kookes° Cryst after his passion
brake hell for our redempcion
that find the Cockes & hostelers of this towne
& that w*i*th full good chere

6/ day: *altered from* dey

19m/ Coruisers: i *altered from* e

°Skynners Cardmakers Poynters and girdlers°

also the Skynners they be bowne
w*i*th great worsap & renowne
they find the resurection
fayre may them befall

°Sadlers Foysters°

Sadlers & foysters haue the good grace
the find the Castell of Emawse
where Crist appered to Cleophas
a faire pagend you shall see

°Taylyers°

also the Tayler's w*i*th trew Intent
haue taken on them verament
the assencyon by one assent
to bringe it forth full right

°fysshe mongers°

fysshe mongers men of faith
as that day will doe their slayth
to bringe there caryage furth in grayth,
wytsonday it hight° |

°wyues°

The wurshipffull wyffys of this towne
ffynd of our Lady thassumpc*i*on
It to bryng forth they be bowne
And meytene w*i*t*h* all theyre might

°shermen°

The Shermen will not behynd
Butt bryng theire cariage w*i*t*h* good mynde
The pagent of p*ro*phettys they do fynd
That p*ro*phecied ffull truly
Off the comyng of Anticrist
That goodys ffaith wold resist
That cariage I warrand shall not myst
But sett forth full dewly

°Hewsters or Diers°

The hewsters that be men full sage
They bryng forth A wurthy cariage
That is A thing of grett costage
Antycryst hit hight/

6m/ Foysters: F *altered from long* s
6/ foysters: f *altered from long* s
24/ meytene: *for* meyntene

°Weuers & walkers°

They weyuers in V*ery* dede
ffynd the day of dome well [they] may they spede
I graunt theym holly to theire neede
The blysse of heuen bright

Sou*er*eigne syrs to you I say
And to all this ffeyre cuntre
That played shalbe this godely play
In the whitson weeke
That is brefely forto sey
vppon monday tuysday and wennysday
Whoo lust to see theym he may
And non of theym to seke.

°erazed in the booke°

Also maister Maire of this Citie
wit*h*all his bretheryn accordingly
A Solempne p*ro*cession ordent hath he
to be done to the best
Appon the day of corpus chr*ist*i
The blessed sacrament caried shalbe
And A play sett forth by the clergye
In honou*r* of the fest |
Many torches there may you see
March*a*unty and craftys of this Citie
By order passing in theire degree
A goodly sight that day

°erazed in the booke°

They come from saynt maries on the hill
the churche of saynt Iohns vntill
And there the sacrament leve they will
The south as I you say
whoo so comyth these playes to see
with good deuoc*i*on merelye
hertely welcome shall he be
And haue right good chere

Sur Iohn Aneway was maire of this Citie
when these playes were begon truly

1/ Very: *altered by* RH II *from* Euery
14–21/ Also maister ... fest: *marginal brace by* RH II *to indicate erasure*
14/ Also maister: *underlined by* RH II
20/ clergye: g *corrected over another letter*
22–30/ Many torches ... I you say: *marginal brace by* RH II *to indicate erasure*

god grant vs merely
And see theym many A yere

Now haue I done that lyeth in me
To p*ro*cure this solempnitie
That these playes contynued may be
And well sett fourth Alway

Iesu crist that syttys on hee
°erazed°
And his blessyd mother marie/
Saue all this goodely company
And kepe you nyght and day
...

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 35* *(10 October 1539–15 October 1540)*
...

°silver bell & gleeves offered°

The Balls and foote ball: accustomed to be offered to the mayor . were layde awaye and gleeves of silver offered by the shomakers in the rombe of them . and for the sadlers ball a siluer bell w*hi*ch were offered one Shrove Tusedaye to m*aste*r mayor . besydes silver gleaves geven to the drap*ers* by all such p*er*sons as are yearely maried in this Cittye
...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 10v *(10 October 1539–15 October 1540)*
...

In this yeare: the Offeringe of balls and foote ball were in this Cittye put downe. and the horse w*i*th silver bell and silver gleeves offered vp to the Maior upon shrove Tuseday: the silver bell beinge wonne by the best Rvninge horse:
...

A ***Mayors List 17*** CCALS: P/Cowper *Collectanea Devana, Vol 1*
p 188* *(10 October 1539–15 October 1540)*
...

In this Mayorelty . Mathew Ellis of Overleigh, and Thomas Browne of Netherleigh, within the precincts of the city of Chester, having each married a daughter of S*ir* Piers Dutton of Dutton in Cheshire, the two weddings were kept at the same time, and with much festivity at Dutton-Hall, from whence

---

10/ And ... marie: *underlined by RH II to indicate erasure*
18–19m/ silver ... offered: *in RH II's hand*
20, 30/ Shrove Tusedaye, shrove Tuseday: *10 February 1539/40*

the Gentlemen brought their Brides, on tuesday, the 24th of Iune, which being the Feast of St Iohn Baptist, and the day, upon which the Minstrelsy of the City . and County, are annually licensed at Chester, by the Lord of Dutton: The Company before: mentioned were met, on their return from Dutton-Hall, at Flookers-brook-bridge, by the Steward of Dutton, attended by the Pursevant and Standard-bearer of that Family, each properly habited, and having the several Insignia used at that Midsummer solemnity, preceded by all the licensed Musicians, with white scarves across their shoulders, rank'd in pairs, and playing ^⌜on⌝ their several instruments, this procession marched before the Gentlemen and their Guests, quite thorough the city, to their respective Mansions where plentifull Entertainment was provided on that occasion. – S*ir* P*eter* Leycester, and Mr Holmes MS.

...

1544–5

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/1

p 73* *(29 September–29 September) (Extraordinary expenses)*

...

It*em* to will*ia*m cally for the watche	xij d.

...

1545–6

A ***Mayors List 4*** BL: Harley MS 2105

f 95

...

In this yere mr holcroft died & mr Iohn Walley was chosyn mayor & the plaies went that same yere

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054

f 15* *(5 July–4 July)*

...

to Ran*dle* Crane on Corpus Christi day 4 d. for makinge our lights xiij d.

...

1546–7

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/1

p 155 *(25 March–24 June) (Extraordinary expenses)*

In primis to Willia*m* Calw for wachyng iij nyght*es*	xij d.

...

32/ Corpus Christi day: *24 June 1546*

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 1v* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…	
It*em* ffor vj geyffes of selver	iij s.
It*em* spend ou*er* the shotte on gotedes monday	ij s. viij d.
It*em* geyuen to ij menstrells in Thomas pellyn hous	vj d.
…	
It*em* geyven to ye menstrels on corpos creste day & on medsomer daye	ij s.
…	
It*em* spend wyene wye payd mester dotton ffor caryng awye the carch	viij d.
…	

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 15* *(4 July–3 July)*

	…	
[1574]	for potinge the Carag out of the hasthel	vj d.
1547	for lights on Corpus christi day 1547 2 Copes for the lights	x d.
	Spent at ⌜mr⌝ Tho*mas* Aldersey Tauarne on midsomer eue	xiij d.
	…	

1547–8
Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 7* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…	
It*em* geyven at the drenkeng of wyllyam semcoke to a menstrell	iiij d.
…	
It*em* payd ffor vj gleyves	iij s.
It*em* payd ou*er* the shotte on gotedes monday	xxj d.
It*em* payd to a menstrels the same daye	iiij d.
It*em* payd to ij menstrels in the stuardes house	viij d.
…	

f 7v*

…	
It*em* on corpos creste daye to a menstrell	iiij d.

4/ geyffes: *for* gleyffes
5/ gotedes monday: *21 February 1546/7*
8, 19/ corpos creste day, Corpus christi day 1547: *9 June 1547*
30/ gotedes monday: *13 February 1547/8*
31/ menstrels: *for* menstrel
37/ corpos creste daye: *31 May 1548*

It*em* spend ye same daye on oure brethern	iiij d.
It*em* spend on the shereffes	vj d.
…	
It*em* spende at necolas smyth wydeng to a menstrell	ij d.
…	
It*em* spend at semkokes & to ij menstrels at ye dene*r*	v s. viij d.
…	

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 15* *(3 July–1 July)*

…	
to mynstrells at Rondolfs pasewalls wedinge Robyn borys wedinge & hugh Stokens weding	xx d.
to mynstrells on Corpus christy day & drinking	vj s.
Spent in the northgate when wee were there	4 s. 8 d.
for a q*uar*t wyne at mr Rafe Aldersey tauarn	iiij d.
…	

1548–9

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 10* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…	
It*em* geyuen to a menstrell on mertens even	vj d.
It*em* geyuen to a menstrell on oure month dey	viij d.
…	

f 10v*

…	
It*em* payd for our gleffes	iiij s.
It*em* geyuen to a menstrel on corpos creste dey	viij d.
It*em* spend in peter tounges hause	vj d.
It*em* spend on gotedes mondey ou*er* oure shoute	iij s. iiij d.
…	
It*em* payd to a menstrell ye thorsdaye affter	iiij d.
…	

14/ Corpus christy day: *31 May 1548*
30/ corpos creste dey: *20 June 1549*
32/ gotedes mondey: *4 March 1548/9*
34/ ye thorsdaye affter: *7 March 1548/9*

1549–50

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 13v* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* peyde to the the menstreles on martenes dey	xij d.
...	
It*em* spente on menstreles at wyllyam acokes drenkeng	xij d.
It*em* peyd ffor a pottel of wyene	vj d.
It*em* peyde to the wyettes of shorresbere	xij d.
It*em* peyd to the menstreles that dey that wye toke in wyllyam leneker	xij d.

f 14*

...

It*em* peyd ffor gleyves	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* peyd ffor beff & chesse	v s.
It*em* spende at the [ede] eyldermans housse on ex wyenesdey ou*er* the shotte	v s.
It*em* sspende the thovrdey after	viij s.

...

f 14v*

It*em* spende at the good man hardborens on oure bretheren	xij d.
It*em* spende at wyllyam Rychardssons apon menstreles	viij d.
It*em* spend the same tyme to the wyettes of shuresbere	xij d.
It*em* peyde at wyllyam aucokes deyner	v s.
It*em* to the wyettes	viij d.
...	
It*em* spend at wysson ttyde on the sumakers of shovressbere	iij s. iiij d.

...

ff 16–16v*

Ihesu
The expense to oure pley

It*em* peyd ffor Reydeng the banes	xix d.

5/ the the: *dittography*

9, 26, 30/ shorresbere, shuresbere, shovressbere: *Shrewsbury, Shropshire*

17/ ex wyenesdey: *19 February 1549/50*

19/ the thovrdey after: *20 February 1549/50*

30/ wysson ttyde: *25–31 May 1550*

	It*e*m peyd ffor a dosyn bordes to the carych	ij s. viij d.
	It*e*m peyde ffor ij plankes for lasses	viij d.
	It*e*m payd ffor iij gyse & haffe a sper	xij d.
	It*em* peyd ffor neyles	viij d.
	It*em* peyd ffor ffreytyng of the weyles	xvj d.
	It*em* peyd ffor wryght notte & the beyrech	iij s. iij d.
	It*e*m peyd ffor iij stryke of wyete	x s. iij d.
	It*em* peyd ffor ij eyrdes & a hauffe of flaxson clauth to make meyre madelentes coute	xxij d.
	It*e*m payd ffor bakyng of godes brede	iiij s. viij d.
	It*e*m payd ffor beffe to oure generall Reyherse	iij s. iij d.
	⌜spend over the shoute⌝	xvij d.
	It*e*m payd ffor glaues to the pleyers	iiij s.
	It*e*m payd ffor ssetteng op of oure stepoll & ffor tember	xvij d.
	It*e*m payde ffor the pleyers breykeffaste	viij s. iiij d.
	It*e*m payd ffor dreynke to the pleyers [& poters of ye carych]	ij s. viij d.
	It*e*m paid ffor geyldeng of godes ffase & ffor peyntyng of the geylers ffasses	xij d.
	It*e*m payd ffor dressyng of the chauernes & ffor ye as	viij d.
	It*e*m peyd ffor the menstrells wages	ij s. iiij d.
some lviij s.	It*e*m peyd ffor payntyng & gyldyng of the pleyeng geyre	v s. |
	It*e*m payd ffor gryndyng the wyette	ij d.
	It*em* payd ffor ij cordes	ij d.
	It*em* payd ffor soupe	j d.
	It*em* spend at the bryngeng vp of oure charych	vj d.
	It*em* payd ffor wyne to the barkers	xx d.
	It*e*m payd to the potters of the carych	xviij d.
	It*em* payd ffor drenke to the potters of the carych	ij s.
	It*e*m payd ffor the marchantes ware	iiij d.
	It*em* payd for wypcord & pake thryd & chonchyse	vij d.
	It*em* payd ffloures	j d.
	It*em* payd to the lade for leydeng the as	j d.
	It*em* payd ffor [beyche] beyryches	iiij d.
	It*e*m to god	ij s.
	to mare madeline	x d.
	to martha	viij d.
	to Iodas	xvj d.
	to vj chelder of esaraell	iij s.
	to keyffase	x d.
	to anas	viij d.
	the to kneythtes	viij d.

8/ eyrdes: *for* yerdes

to the geyler	xvj d.
to the geylers man	xiiij d.
to the Reygenall beyrer	xij d.
It*em* payd ffor wyne that Roger glouer & perse toung dranke	iiij d.
some xxj s. iiij d.	

1550–1

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 14v *(11 November 1549–11 November 1550) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* spend ou*er* the shotte ⌜on⌝ [s] ssen*t* martens even	iij s.
It*em* geyven to the wyettes	vj d.

...

f 17 *(11 November 1550–11 November 1551)*

...

It*em* payd to a menstrel in Thomas pellyn	vj d.
It*em* payd on oure month dey to a menstrel	viij d.

...

f 17v

...

It*em* payd for vj gleyvese	iij s. vj d.
It*em* payd ffor beffe at goutted	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* payd ij menstrels at goutted	vj d.

...

It*em* payd to a menstrel on corpos creste dey	viij d.

...

f 18

...

It*em* geyuen to a menstrel in Rychard telston	vj d.
It*em* geyuen to a menstrel in Rayffe wyanam	vj d.

...

1551–2

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 19v *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

...

Itam paid to the mynstrell on martens daie	viij d.

...

24, 25/ goutted: *9 February 1550/1*

27/ corpos creste dey: *28 May 1551*

Itam paid to the mynstrell at o*ur* monyth	viij d.
…	
Itam on guttides mondaye to the mynstrell*es*	vj d.
Itam for o*ur* gleaves	iij s. iiij d.
Itam Over the shotte on guttydes mondaie	iiij s. iiij d.
…	
Itam to the mynstrell at Roger Glouers weading	viij d.
…	
Itam to the mynstrell*es* at Rob*er*t*es* smythes weding	xij d.
…	

1552–3

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 21* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…	
It*em* geyven to the wyete men on martens dey	vj d.
…	
It*em* peyd to myles nokan ffor makyng the gleyues	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* peyd ffor chesse & ffeche at goted	iiij s. iiij d.
It*em* spend on gottedes mondey & the thovrdey after at ovre alldermanes bradbornes havsse ovuer the shovtes in brede & ale	v s. ob.
It*em* spend at ovre alldermans bradborns hovsse on ex Wensdey ou*er* the shoute	xxj d.
…	

f 21v*

It*em* geyven to the me*n*streles on ex wensdey	xij d.
It*em* geyven to wyllyam luter on gottedes mondey	iiij d.
It*em* geyven to the Wyettemen the thovrdey affter	viij d.
It*em* geyven the same dey ffor waffarnes	iiij d.
…	
It*em* geyven to a menstrel at Rayffe Warnames hovsse	vj d.
…	
It*em* geyvene to a menstrel on medsomer eve at nethe	vj d.
…	

3, 5/ guttides mondaye, guttydes mondaie: *29 February 1551/2*
19/ ffeche: *for* ffleche *(?)*
19, 20, 30/ goted, gottedes mondey, gottedes mondey: *13 February 1552/3*
24, 29/ ex Wensdey, ex wensdey: *15 February 1552/3*
20, 31/ the thovrdey after, the thovrdey affter: *16 February 1552/3*

A **1553–4**

Mayors List 9 BL: Additional MS 29777
mb [11]* *(13 October–12 October)*

...
Also this yeare the Playes were playde
...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 22 *(11 November 1552–11 November 1553) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* peyde to the menstreles on martenes en at nethe	xiiij d.
It*em* spend ou*er* the shovtte on martenes en	viij d.

...

f 24* *(11 November 1553–11 November 1554)*

...

It*em* peyde ffor vj gleyffes	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* peyde ffor beffe & chesses at govtted	ij s. viij d.
It*em* peyd ovuer the shoutte at gotted	xiij d.
It*em* peyde to the menstreles at gotted	viij d.
It*em* spende at Iohn bradbornes at gotted	xx d.
It*em* geyven the same tymy to the menstreles	vj d.
...	
It*em* peyd to the menstreles on medsomer evne	viij d.
...	
It*em* spende at gotted at Thomas pyllyn	iiij s. vj d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
ff 14v–15* *(2 July–1 July)*

...
1554 payd Rand*le* a Crane in yonge Rafe goodmans
howse xij d. was ther minstrell
...
to Rand*le* Crane at mr bradfords dinner xij d. & on St loys day xij d.
...
Spent at Io*hn* plemers howse when m*aste*r maior came to loke what harnise
euery man had viij d.
whitson plays for ridinge the banes xiij d. the Citty Crier ridd
spent at potyng aute off Carriges at Rich*ard* barkers 4 d.

18, 19, 20, 21, 26/ govtted, gotted: *5 February 1553/4* 22/ tymy: *for* tyme

we gaue at geting aute of the Carriag 4 d.
we gaue for an axeyll tre to Rich*ard* belfounder vj d.
for an other axelltre to Ric*hard* hankey iiij d.
payd for dressing of the Carriage x d.
for Ropes nelles pyns sope & thrid x d. |
for wheate ij s. ij d. for malt iij s. 4 d. for flesh ij s. x d.
for flesh at the breckfast & bacon ij s. 8 d.
for 6 chekens x d. for 2 cheeses xvj d.
It*em* we gaue for gelldinge of Gods fase xij d.
It*em* we gaue botord beere to the players 4 d. for bred in northgatestreat ij d.
we drank in the watergate street vj d. at Io*hn* a leys x d. at Ric*hard* Anderton founderer xij d. at mr dauison tauarne xiij d.
to the mynstrells in mane ij s.
we gaue to the porters of the Caryegs ij s., for gloues xiiij d.
we gaue to the docters iij s. 4 d.
we gaue to Ioseph viij d.
we gaue to letall God xij d. we gaue to mary x d. to damane x d.
we gaue to the Angells vj d., to ould sermond iij s. 4 d.
we gaue to barnes & the syngers iij s. 4 d.
for more wheate 18 d. malte ij s. ij d. flesh 3 s. 4 d. a chese ix d.
to Randle Crane in mane ij s.
spent at mrs dauison tauarne ij s. j d., for the charges of the Regenall xij d.
to the skayneares iij s.
for makinge of the Copes v s., for dressinge of the stands & Iauddases xij d.
for gelding of the fane & for Carriages of the lightes xij d.
in all iij li. 4 s. 7 d.

...

1554–5

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/8
mb [3] *(12 October–11 October)* *(Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

The steward*es* of the drap*ers* for their Caredge house buylde vpon the Citiez grounde nere to ye greye frere lande ende viij d.
The steward*es* of the marsers for ye Caredge house vpon ye Citiez land*es* vj d.

...

mb [4] *(Expenses)*

...

Item payde for Saynte georg*es* daye xx s. vij d.

...

Item payde for mydsomer wache for the Caredge of the pagions and paynters xxviij s. vj d.

...

mb [5]

...

Item payde to mr Thomas Smythe for vij yard*es* of Clothe to the wettemens gownys xxxix s. viij d.

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 24 *(11 November 1553–11 November 1554) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* spende over the shotte on martens even v s. xj d.

It*em* geyven on martens even to the menstreles xij d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054

f 15v* *(1 July–30 June) Payments)*

...

payd to mynstrells at marriage of Io*hn* harrson daughter 4 d.

a Smyth Kept a Tauerne — payd same day in our Aldermans tauarne iiij d.

...

f 16*

...

payd at the drinkinge of hugh Masse to mynstrells 4 d.

...

to mynstrells on Corpus Christi Day xx d.

layd downe that day more then we receued 3 s. 4 d. for our lights vj s. Carring vj d. for horsbred to Semeons horse 4 d. for gloues for him ij d., to prisoners same day ij d.

...

1555–6

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 26* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* geuen to westeid the minstrill the same day iiij d.

It*em* spend the same daye ouer the shotte at dener xx d.

...

28/ Corpus Christi Day: *13 June 1555*

38/ the same day: *ie, election day, 11 November 1555*

It*em* payd for gleaufe*s* one gotete*s* daye iij s. iiij d.
...
It*em* geuen to the wettmen and other to mynstrylle*s* one the thoursday in the sklnesynge daye*s* xij d.
It*em* ‸⌜more⌝ lede doune that was ouer the shote the same daye ij s. ij d.
...
It*em* geuen to the presoners one sent gorgeday ij d.
...

f 26v*
...
It*em* apon cobescristye day geuen to shacroste*s* xij d.
It*em* that we gaufe the wettmen the same day viij d.
It*em* geuen to amynstryll *ya*t plaide afore vs one medsomer [day] euen xij d.
It*em* that we spende ouer the shotte the same nyght that we layd doune xxj d.
It*em* geuen to the presoners one mydsomer euen ij d.
...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 15v* *(30 June 1555–4 July 1556)*
...
to S*ir* Io*hn* smyth for the Reggenall ij d.
...

(4 July 1556–4 July 1557)
payd to Io*hn* Plumber ij s. viij d. to R*andle* Crane same tyme viij d. to m*aste*r maior to the hande xx s.
same day to S*ir* Law*rence* smythes bally v s.
Spent on our bretheren p*re*sent at payment of m*aste*r maior & S*ir* L*awrence* Smyth baly xij d.
...

1/ gotete*s* daye: *17 February 1555/6*
4/ the thoursday in the sklnesynge daye*s*: *20 February 1555/6*
4/ sklnesynge: *for* sklenesynge
13/ cobescristye day: *4 June 1556*
16/ xij d.: x *written over* v
29, 31/ same tyme, same day: *ie, election day, 4 July 1556*

1556–7

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 85*

breckfast*es* vpon chr*ist*emas day to be Left & no mu*m*ming in time of chr*ist*enmas

Whereas Heretofore of late tyme yt Hathe been vsed that diu*er*se of the worshipfull of this Citie haue caused breckfast*es* to be made in ther houses vpon Christenmas daie in the mornyng before dyvyne s*er*uice endyd by reasone wherof madye dysorderid p*er*sons haue vsed them selue*s* Raything all the daye after idellie in vyse & wantonne*s* then yeuen them Selue*s* holy to contemplacion & prayre the same Sacryt holye & prynsepaule feaste according to ther most bounden dutye vnto god the sone redemer of the worlde who as that daye came into this worlde and was borne of o*ur* blessed virgyn marye for the redemption of all mankynd and to the intent the same feste maye be the better & more hollier kept according to thorder of god & his holy churche m*aste*r mayre by theadvyse of his worshipfull brethern thaldermen of this cytie haue thought good that those breckefast*es* banckytt*es* the same christenme*s* daye in the morning shall not be vser and kept herafter, and you shall vnderstand that this ys not meynyd but that eu*er*y man y*a*t will vpon other daye*s* conuenyent may bestoue the same coste vpon ther freinde*s* and pore nyghbore*s* as lyberally as thaye haue byne accoustomyd other yere*s* before [th] tyme to the prayse of god and contenta*cion* of ther neighbore*s*, and allso that no mann*er* person or p*er*sones go abrode in this citie mu*m*myng in any place w*i*thin the same citie ther fayse*s* being cou*er*yd or disgysed and that no man*er* of p*er*son or p*er*sone*s* w*i*thin this citie suffer any p*er*son or p*er*sone*s* to playe at any vnlaufull gayme*s* w*i*thin his or ther house or houses w*hi*ch be p*ro*hibityd by any laue or statute w*i*thin this realme vpon payne of impr*is*enment of ther body*es* & makinge fyne according to the statut[e]*es* in that case prouidyd

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/9
mb [4] *(Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

The stewarde*s* of the drap*ers* for their Caredge howse buylde vpon the Cittiez grounde ner to the grey frere lane end	viij d.
The stewardes of the marsers for theyr Caredge howse vpon ye Citiez lande*s*	vj d.

...

mb [6] *(Expenses)*

...

Item paide to m*aste*r mayre to paye for the wayttmens gouns	xlvj s. viij d.

...

8/ madye: *for* manye

17/ vser: *for* vsed

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 26v *(11 November 1555–11 November 1556) (Expenses)*

...	
It*em* spend ou*er* the shovtte on mertens evn	ix d.
It*em* geyven to a menstrell	ij d.
...	

f 28* *(11 November 1556–11 November 1557)*

...	
It*em* paid ffor gleues	iij s. iiij d.
...	
It*em* paide vnto Shalcroste the mynstrill	vj d.
It*em* paide vnto Barine of kyndertones mynstrilles	viij d.
...	
It*em* p*ai*d to the p*r*isonares on holie Thursdaie at p*ro*sac*i*on	ij d.
It*em* p*ai*d to the p*r*isonares on Midsom*er* Even	ij d.
...	

AC

Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts BL: Harley MS 2054

f 15v* *(4 July–4 July)*

...	
to the Ringers on St loys [day] euen ij d. to belman ij d. to the preests on St loys day vj d.	
Spent same day at mr dauisons tauarne	xviij d.
...	
for makinge of a bill to putt to m*aste*r Maior on St Georges day	ij d.
to p*ri*soners same day ij d.	
for 6 new topps & payntinge all the spayres new to w*illia*m framo	iiij s. x d.
for dressinge the banners & for fringes	xx d.
to Rich*ard* gest for 13 new speres vj d. for neles to nele the banners on j d.	
for carryinge of the lights on Corpus christi day vj d. to Ran*dle* Crane the minstrell ij s.	
on midsomer eue to the p*ri*soners ij d. Spent same day in Simon mounforts howse xv d.	
the same night to Ran*dle* Crane	4 d.
for makinge a bill to put to m*aste*r maior for the makinge of our harnes	ij d.
...	

15/ holie Thursdaie: *27 May 1557*
32/ Corpus christi day: *17 June 1557*

1557–8

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
ff 29v–30 *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…	
peyd ffor gleyues on gouttedes dey	iij s. iiij d.
peyd ffor beffe & chesse ou*er* & beside the shutte	iiij s. iiij d. |
It*em* spend the same dey at a later shoutte	xx d.
It*em* geyuen the ssame dey to the menstreles	viij d.
It*em* geyvene to the menstrelles on exwendey	vj d.
It*em* geyven to the menstreles on the thoursdey	viij d.
It*em* geyven at *sir* Rychard ankokes	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* geyven to the menstreles at *sir* Rychardes	vj d.
peyd ffor a gaulen of wyne at *Sir* Rychardes	xvj d.
…	
peyd to the preyssoners on sene gorge dey	iiij d.
peyd to the preyssoners on corposscryste dey	iiij d.
peyd to the menstrell on corposscryste dey	viij d.
spend ou*er* the shutte the ssamedey	iij s. iiij d.
…	
peyd ffor mendeng the torme*n*tors heydes	x d.
…	

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 15v* *(4 July–3 July)*

…	
to barne a kyndertons mynstrells in Symon founders howse on St Loy day	xij d.
…	
to the waytmen	viij d.
…	
on midsomer Eue at night at simon founders	3 s. 4 d.
on Corpus christi day for Caringe lights vj d. to seuerall mynstrell	*(blank)*
to *Willia*m luter minstrell & Rand*le* Crane	x d.

Mem*orandum* the Company neuer mett at Tauarne or any howse w*ith*out musick
…

5/ gouttedes dey: *21 February 1557/8*
9/ exwendey: *23 February 1557/8*
10/ thoursdey: *24 February 1557/8*
16, 17, 32/ corposscryste dey, Corpus christi day: *9 June 1558*
33/ mynstrell: *for* mynstrells *(?)*

1558

Inventory of Thomas Glazier, Gentleman CCALS: WS 1558

f [1] *(In the chamber over the parlour)*

...

It*em* an old lewte at xij d.

...

1558–9

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/10

mb [5] *(14 October–13 October) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

The steward*es* of the drapers for their Caredge howse buyld vpon the citiez grounde nere to the grey frere lane ende viij d.

The steward*es* of the marcers for their Caredge howse buyld on citiez land*es* vj d.

...

mb [9] *(Expenses)*

...

Item payde to the surde berere and to the masse berere at mydsom*er* xx s.

...

Item payde to the levelokers for sente George daye xxv s.

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/1

p 316 *(25 November–25 March) (Internal and external payments)*

...

It*em* to Randle Gennet for watchyng w*ith* ye mayr & shyryff*es* christenmasse Eve*n* & day & saynt steve*nes* day at nyght xij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 30 *(11 November 1557–11 November 1558) (Expenses)*

...

peyd ou*er* the shutte on mertens euen ij s. x d.

peyd to the menstreles the ssame even xviij d.

...

f 33 *(11 November 1558–11 November 1559)*

...

It*em* oure gleuys iij s. iiij d.

It*em* spede our*e* the showte on gowtyt mondaye	[vij d.] ⌈v s.⌉
It*em* spnde on the mynstrellys the same day	xiij d.
It*em* to the gogyllyr	ij s.
It*em* at my alldermanys to the gogyllyr	viij d.
It*em* at Raufe Vernan*es* to the gogyllyr & to my mynyssterelly*es*	xx d.
…	
It*em* to the pare [of] on sente georgese daye	iiij d.
…	

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054

f 16* *(3 July–2 July)*

…	
giuen the mynsrells at Io*hn* huntingtons dinner	xij d.
…	
to the minstrells on St Loyes day when Rich*ard* barker Smyth made his dinner	ij s.
for wyne we gaue to the wiues same day	x d.
…	
to pr*is*oners on St geor*ges* day	ij d.
to lutter the mynstrell when w*illia*m Ionson made his dinner	viij d.
…	

1559–60

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 33v *(11 November 1558–11 November 1559) (Expenses)*

…	
It*em* spende on sentmarten eue ower the shote	vj s. iiij d.
It*em* on the same nyght to the mynystrelys	xvj d.
…	

f 36 *(11 November 1559–11 November 1560)*

…	
payde to the mestreles at Ry*chard* howyt drynkynge	iiij d.
…	
spende ouer the shot on gottyes monde	v s. ij d.

1, 2/ spede, spnde: *for* spende
1/ gowtyt mondaye: *6 February 1558/9*
14/ mynsrells: *for* mynstrells
14/ dinner: *3 minims in MS*
37/ gottyes monde: *26 February 1559/60*

more to the mestrels on the same daye	xij d.
more payde at the aldermones hose ouer the shote	xviij d.
more to the mestreles on the same daye	xij d.
more payde at wyllyam Ryc*hard*soun hose ouer the shote	iiij s. ij d.
more to the mestreles on the same daye	xvj d.
more payde [of] for oure glefes	iij s. iiij d.
geuen to mester planton in wyne	xij d.
more payde to the mestreles at Ryc*hard* cokes weddyng	xij d.
more payde to the mestrel on medsomar heuen	viij d.
more to the presoners	ij d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 16 *(2 July–30 June)*

...

layd downe on St loys day to the shott & mynstrells in the Aldermans howse	6 s. 3 d.
that day Rich*ard* whitley made his dinner to mynstrells	vj d.

...

Spent on Corpus christi day more then the shott came to ix s. viij d. to mynstrells xij d.
on midsomer eue at night to *pre*soners iiij d. Spent at Ald*ermans* ij s. ij d. minstrells xij d.

...

more to the presoners	ij d.

...

1560–1

A ***Mayors List 11*** BL: Additional MS 29780
f 130* *(11 October–10 October)*

...

This yeare the playes called Whison playes were played...

...

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542
f [29v] *(11 October–10 October)*

...

This yeare the playes called Witson playes weare played...

...

18/ dinner: *3 minims in MS*
20/ Corpus christi day: *25 May 1559*

AC ***Mayors List 15*** CCALS: DLE 135

f [14] *(11 October–10 October)*

...

This yeare the plese were played at whitsontyde

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 36v* *(11 November 1559–11 November 1560) (Expenses)*

...

more payde to the menstreles at Wyllyam Kerse denner	xvj d.
more payde for rycces	iiij d.
more on martyns heuen to Wyllyam Luter	iiij d.
more on martyns heuen at nyght spende ouer the shote	viij d.
more after the shote spende	viij d.

...

f 39 *(11 November 1560–11 November 1561)*

...

It*em* on sent martyns daye at Ryc*hard* snytes denner to the menstreles	ix d.
more the same daye spende	iij d.

...

more payde for [s] glefes	iii s. iiij d.
more spende ower the shote on gottets mondaye	vij s. ij d.
more to the menstreles the same daye	xv d.
more spende ower the shote on ex wensdaye at the aldermones	xx d.
more spende ower the shote at Robart branes	v s. [d.]
more payde to the menstreles on the same daye	iij s.

...

more spende at Ryc*hard* knghyts weddynge to the mynstrel	vj d.
more at Ihon hoghtes weddynge to the mynstrel	vj d.

f 39v

...

payde to the menstreles on mycommer heuen	xij d.
more for ij potteles of sake ower the shote	ij d.
more for bere to the stuwarts of the gornemen and the hobbehorssys	iiij d.

4/ whitsontyde: *25–31 May 1561*

23/ glefes: *corrected from* glases

24/ gottets mondaye: *17 February 1560/1*

26/ ex wensdaye: *19 February 1560/1*

more to the presoneres j d. ob.
more ouer the shote at the makynge op of the playe ij d. ob.
...

AC **_Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts_** BL: Harley MS 2054
ff 16v–17* *(30 June 1560–6 July 1561)*

The names of the Company 1561 & receued of them
of hugh Massy 13 s. 4 d.
rece*ued* of Mr Moumfort Alderman ij s. 4 ob.

Rich*ard* skryuener
Io*hn* parsyuall
Io*hn* plumer
Io*hn* Robynson
Rich*ard* barker
Rog*er* ledsham ij s. 4 d.
gilb*er*t Knowes
Rob*er*t Crockett
Rafe smyth
Will*ia*m loker
law*rence* gesley
hugh Stokton ij s.

Irrian Ryder
Rob*er*t vrmeston
Io*hn* dooe
Io*hn* ball
Meowe Trafford
Rich*ard* smyth
Rich*ard* newall
Rich*ard* brasse ij s.
Rand*le* latton
will*ia*m clyffe
Io*hn* huntington

Tho*mas* Towers
W*illia*m Ionnson
hugh massy
Io*hn* harrison wife ij s. ij d.
Rich*ard* barker wife
Rob*er*t hancock
all the rest ij s. iiij d. ob. apeece

rece*ued* of the Iurneymen v s.
of the Iurneymen at the generall rehearse xvj d.
payd on election day in our Aldermans howse vj s. vj d. to mynstrells 4 d.
to mr Tho*mas* Massy for Tymber 8 s. 9 d. to carter & men to gett it out 7 d. ob.
for wod to make welles 3 s. 4 d.
Cost vs the rydinge the banes our horses & ourselues of the w*hi*ch symyon was one ^⌜ij s.⌝
payd for the first rehearse at Io*hn* huntingtons howse vj d.
whitson play busnesse
for paper to Coppy out the p*ar*cells of the booke v d.
berrage of our wheles 9 d. ob.
spent hyring the Cartwrights in Geff Cokes sellor ij d. q*uadrans*
spent at deliueringe forth of the p*ar*cells & gettinge pillers 4 d. ob.
payd for making the welles to the Cartwright 7 s. 4 d. to mr boydle for bords and other tymber v s.
payd the wright for makinge the Carriage & for berrag 8 s. 5 d. for nayls vj d.
for drink in barkers after the rehearse xviij d.
payd Io*hn* byrth for beaffe agaynst the generall rehearse 6 s. 8 d.

13/ plumer: *6 minims in MS*

for 3 ould cheeses 4 s.
for frettinge the wheles & nayles xviij d.,
for going to warne the occupations spent 4 d.
Spent in S*ir* Rand*le* barnes chamber to gett singers iij d.
Spent at Rob*er*t Iones at rehearse xix d., to *Willia*m lutter at genrall rehearse 4 d. ob.
for 6 Crokes for Alle at gen*rall* rehearse x s. a crocke of Small ale & 2 gallons xx d.
a hoppe of wheate to the gen*rall* rehearse ij s. iij d.
to Iames Tayler for bread & cakes for gen*rall* rehearse ij s. vij d.
for wyne to the sayd rehearse ij s. vjj d.
for an other hoppe of wheat agayne the whyttson tidde ij s. iij d.
when we brought oure Carragge to the wayevers howse vj d.
payd the wrights for settinge the wheles viij d., & Carriage forth of the water [viij d.] ⌜j d. ob.⌝
for a pound of gray sope for the wheles iij d.
for 2 chekens vj d. for naylles to dresse the Carriage iij d. ob.
for makinge a faxe payntinge & dressynge the pillers gere & a Crowne for Mary *(blank)*
for 3 Curten Cowerds iij d. for pynnes iij d.
for flesh for a breckfast at whitsontyde 3 s. 8 d.
for glowes ij s. viij d. |
for guildinge of litle Gods face xij d.
for makinge the players to drinke in the watergate street v d.
for drinke to the players in the bridgstret iij d.
to Io*hn* layes wife for drinke xij d. to Io*hn* dooes for drink xij d.
to the minstrells 3 s. 6 d. payd for drinke for ther breckfast before they play & after they had done when the were vnbowninge them iij s.
payd the porters of the Carriage xviij d.
payd to Symyon 3 s. 4 d.
payd to S*ir* Io*hn* Genson for songes xij d. to the 5 boyes for singing ij s. vj d.
to the Angell vj d.
to dame Anne x d. to Tho*mas* ellam xij d.
to the first docter xvj d. to the 2d xij d. to the 3d docter xij d.
to the lyttell God xvj d.
for redyng the auRygynall ij s.
to the skynners iij s., to the weuers 4 s. to hugh Stoken xviij d.
to *Willia*m loker for plleyinge xvj d. to Rob*er*t Crockett for a lord ij d.
to Io*hn* dowes for drink xvj d.
spent in the Tauarne on Midsomer euen in mr Moumforts tauarn ij s. 4 d.
payd in stuards howse same night xij d.
to the p*ri*soners in Castell iij d.

spent at makinge vp our buke xvj d.
in all vij li. viij d. ob.

…

(6 July 1561–5 July 1562)
Spent on electionday in mr mounforts vij s. & to 3 mariners & minstrell ij s. vj d.

…

1561–2

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2
p 11 *(25 November–25 March)* *(Expenses)*

…	
It*em* payed to [Mr] Thomas stanley for iij nightes watchinge in Christemas	xij d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 39v *(11 November 1560–11 November 1561)* *(Expenses)*

…	
more spend ouer the shote on martens heuen	xij s. iij d. ob.
more to the menstreles	xvj d.
…	

f 41 *(11 November 1561–11 November 1562)*

…	
It*em* payde to the mensteres on martenes dyee	xvj d.
…	
more payde at radles drynkynge to the menstreles	vj d.
more payde at hethes drynkynge to the menstreles	xvj d.
more payde for the glayfes	iij s. iiij d.
more payde ouer the shote on gottes mondaye	vij s. ij d.
more for howre bretheren shotes the same daye	ij s. vj d.
more on ex wenssdaye for the shotes & besyde the shot	viij s. iiij d.
more at wyllyam Lynykeres howse for the shot and besyde the shot	vij s. vj d.
and for the menstreles for the iij dayes	iiij d.
…	
more for the gyldynge of godes fase on medsomare heue	x d.
more to the prysoneres the same daye	iiij d.

27/ dyee: *for* deye; *first* e *written over* y
32/ gottes mondaye: *9 February 1561/2*
34/ ex wenssdaye: *11 February 1561/2*

more spende on the playeres on mydsomar heue	iij s.
more to the menstreles the sam daye	xvj d.
more spende on the shomakeres of shorsbere	ij s.

…

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 17 *(6 July–5 July)*

…

giuen 3 mynstrells in Io*hn* persyualls	xij d.

…

for rent to the weuers 4 s.	this was for carriage place

…

1562–3

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2
p 39 *(25 November–25 March)* *(Extraordinary expenses)*

…

It*em* to the wachemen for iij nyghtes	xij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 41v *(11 November 1561–11 November 1562)* *(Expenses)*

more on sante martenes heu at nheghet ‸⌈for⌉ [ower] the shot	xvj s.
more to the menstreles the same nheghte	viij d.

…

ff 43–3v* *(11 November 1562–11 November 1563)*

…

Item payde for beffe agaynste guttede*s* monde	v s.
Item geven to the menstrell*es* the same daye	xij d.
Item spende over the shotte the same daye	xj s. x d.
Item spende the same daye in sacke	xx d.
Item payde for oure glevys	iij s. iiij d.
Item spende over the shotte in oure alldermans at gutted	x s.
Item geven the menstrell the same day	viij d. |
Item spende at gutted in wyllyam lays howsse over the shotte	x s.
Item spende the same day in sacke	xx d.
Item geven the menstrels the same day	xij d.

…

3/ shorsbere: *Shrewsbury, Shrops*
11/ this … place: *underlined*
30/ guttede*s* monde: *22 February 1562/3*
35, 37/ gutted: *22 February 1562/3*

Item geven to wyllyam levter on corpus crysty daye	iiij d.
Item given to the presonars on mydsomar even	iiij d.
Item spente on the brethren when whe vente abovte on mydsomar even	vj d.
Item geven the menstrell the same nyghte	ij s.
Item geven the [the] cheldren that dansed the hobbe horses	iiij d.
Item spende over the shotte ^⌜on corpus crysty day⌝ [the same nyghte]	xij d.
Item spende on mydsomar even over the shotte	v s.
Item spend in settyng out of mare modelan on mydsomar even	xx d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 17* *(4 July 1563–2 July 1564)*

...

payd in mr Mountforts xi s. to minstrells 4 d.

...

1563–4
Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 19
f 25 *(26 June)*

Iacob*us* gill venit cora*m* maior*e* Ci*vitatis* Cestr*ie* et cog*novit* se debere Ioh*anni* Dutton Ar*migero* x li. bon*e* et legal*is* monet*e* Angl*ie* Soluend*as* eidem Ioh*anni* aut suo recto Attor*nato* ad eius rational*em* demand*am* etc.

nat*ivitas* s*an*c*t*i Ioh*ann*is bap*tiste*

The condic*i*on of this Recognizanc*e* is suche that if the aboue bounden Iames gill be and p*er*sonally appere before Iohn dut*t*on Esquier m*aste*r & conducter of all & singler the Minstyrel*ls* w*i*thin the countie & cytie of chester or his Lefull deputie or deput*es* vpon the fest of St Iohn Baptiest next comyng after the dat of these p*rese*ntes at chester w*i*thin the countie of the Cittie of chester at the court then & their holdon befoore the seid Iohn or his Lefull deput or deput*es* to Answer to all such fynes as then shalbe Layd against That then &c or ell*es* &c

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/11
mb [3]* *(15 October–13 October) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

The stuard*es* of the drap*er*es for ther careage house bouild vpon the Citize ground nere to the greffrer lane end	viij d.

1, 7/ corpus crysty daye, corpus crysty day: *10 June 1563*

The stuardes of the m*er*cers for ther careage house vpon the Citize landes by yere vj d.

...

mb [4]* *(Expenses)*

...

It*em* paid m*aste*r mayre at midsom*er* for the trivmthe xxvj s. viij d.

...

It*em* paid to houghe gillome for daunsinge at midsom*er* vij s.

It*em* paid Thomas yeaton for gonne poulder at the trivmthe by master mayres apoyntment xiiij s.

...

Memorandum of Agreement Concerning the Midsummer Watch

BL: Harley MS 2150
single sheet* *(21 April)*

> Me*moran*d*um* of an order & agreme*n*t made at the last assembly holden the xxjth daie of Aprell in Anno D*omi*ni 1564 Betwene Sir Laurence Smith knight Maier of the citie of chester the alderme*n* and come*n* counsaill of the seid cittie of thon p*ar*tie And Thomas Poole and Robrt halwod of the citie aforeseid Painter*es* of thother p*ar*tie conce*r*ning the wache vpo*n* the eve of St Iohn baptiest

Imp*r*imis the seid Thomas Poole & Robrt hallwod doth covenant & graunt to & w*i*th the seid Maier Aldreme*n* & com*m*en Counsaill of the seid Cittie & theire successor*es* that they the seid Thomas p⟨...⟩ and Robrt halwod shall & will yerely during theire Naturall Lives vpon their prop*er* cost*es* and charg*es* at & vpon the Even of Saint Iohn baptiest bring ffurth repare & have in redines for the wache afforeseid all suche ornament*es* as hereafter ensueth according as the seid wache here to fore hathe ben set furth, w*i*thall furnytures thervnto belongeng viz. ffoure Ieans, won vnicorne won drombandarye, won Luce, won Camell, won Asse, won dragon, sixe hobby horses & sixtene naked boyes, And the same so being in A Redines shall bere & carie or cause to be borne & caried during the seid wache from place to place according as the same have ben vsed vpon their prop*er* cost*es* & charges. In considerac*i*on whereof the seid Maier Alderme*n* and come*n* counsaill doth covenant & graunt for them & their successor*es* to & w*i*th the seid Thom*as* Poole and Robert halwod that they the seid Maier Alderme*n* & come*n* Counsall & their successor*es* shall well & trewly content and paie or cause to be contented &

37/ counsaill: *5 minims in MS*

paied vnto the seid Thomas Poole and Robert halwod yerely during their Naturall Lieff*es* the Som*me* of ffourtie Shilling*es* of good and Lefull money of england in & vpon the feast of Saint Iohn baptest in one hole & entire paym*ent*, In wittnes whereof either parties to other*es* have Sett herevnto their hand*es* & Seales the Daie and Yere ffurst Above Written.

(signed) Thomas pole *(signed)* Robart hallwod

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 39* *(15 October–13 October)*

this year the sunday next after midsomer there was a triumph deuysed by w*illia*m Crofton gent*leman* & mr mane m*aste*r of Art of the history of Aeneas & dido of carthage which was played on the Rode eye & 2 forts Raysed & a ship on the water w*i*th sundrey horsmen well apoynted.
...

A ***Mayors List 9*** BL: Additional MS 29777
mb [12] *(15 October–13 October)*
...
In this yeare the Sondaye next after Mydsomer daye there was A Tryvmpth devysed by wyllyam Croften gent*leman* and one Mr man Scholemaister of the ffree Schole of the historye of Aeneas and Qeuene Dido of Carthage, in w*hi*ch Trivmpthe vppon the Roode Eye was Two ffort*es* and A Shippe vpon the water with sundrye horssemen well Armed & appoincted
...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 44 *(11 November 1562–11 November 1563) (Expenses)*
...

Item geven the menstrell on martens even	viij d.
Item payde over the shotte the same nyghte	v [d.] s.

...

f 45 *(11 November 1563–11 November 1564)*
...

Item payd vnto a menestrell by the consente of our alldermane and the rest of the bretherne at thomas dycheres daughteres wedynge	xij d.

12, 21 / sunday next after midsomer, the Sondaye next after Mydsomer daye: *1 July 1564*
23/ Qeuene: *for* Queene

It*em* payd for our gleeves at shrostyde	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* spend vpon goottedes moundaye in beffe and over and bescyde the shotte	xij s.
It*em* more for ij potells of secke	xxij d.
It*em* spend at my alldermanes vpone exwenesdaye over and besyde the shotte	viij s.
It*em* spend over the shotte at Rondull a Crones house one thouresdaye	ix s.
It*em* payd more the same tyme in wyne	xxij d.
It*em* payd vnto the mestrelles for all the iij dayes	ij s. vj d.
It*em* payd vpon corpus crystye daye overe the shotte the some of	vj s.

...

f 46

...

It*em* payd vpon mydsomer yeven ffor the setynge ffowrthe of marye modeland and Iudas the some of	xvj d.
It*em* geven vnto the presoneres of the castell	iiij d.
It*em* spend over the showte vpon mydsomer yeven in moneye the some of	iiij s. iiij d.
It*em* ffor the copynge ‸⌈out⌉ of the oregenall now in money the some of	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* payd vnto menstrelles vpon mydsomer yeven the some of	xvj d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
ff 17–17v *(4 July–2 July)*

...

spent at our aldermans howse on midsomer eue viij d. more v s. j d. payd for our Carriage howse 4 s. rent |
to prisoners on midsomer eue 4 d. to mynstrells viij d.
to the 2 docters xij d. to litle God 4 d. for suinge litle gods horse iij d.
for guyldinge the litle gods face xij d.

...

1/ shrostyde: *13–15 February 1563/4*
2/ goottedes moundaye: *14 February 1563/4*
5/ exwenesdaye: *16 February 1563/4*
8/ thouresdaye: *17 February 1563/4*
11/ corpus crystye daye: *1 June 1564*

1564–5

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/12

mb [1] *(13 October–12 October) (Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

The stuard*es* of the drap*ers* for ther careage house vpon
the Citize landes by yeare viij d.
The stuard*es* of the m*er*cers for ther careage house vpon
the Citize land*es* at the grefrerlane end by yere vj d.

...

mb [2] *(Expenses)*

...

It*em* paid houghe gillome for dansinge at midsom*er* by
m*aste*r mayres apoyntment vj s. viij d.

...

It*em* paid to hallowed the paynter & his ffellowes for
ther worke donne at midsom*er* in mr bamvell*es* dayes xxxj s.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 46 *(11 November 1563–11 November 1564) (Expenses)*

...

Item geven to the menstrel*es* on martens even ij s.
Item spende the same nyghte at oure alldermans xiij s. viij d.

...

f 48* *(11 November 1564–11 November 1565)*

...

Item payde for the gleives at gutted iij s. iiij d.

...

Item payde on guttede*s* monday at the stwart*es* for
beffe and ovar and besyde the shotte x s.
Item for a pottell of secke xij d.
Item payde at oure alldermans on wennes day ovar
and be syde the shotte x s.
Item for a pottell of secke xij d.

...

Item payede the menstrell*es* for the threye days iij s. iiij d.
Item payede the menstrell on mydsomar even xvj d.

17/ mr bamvell*es* dayes: *Randle Bamvill, mayor 1562–3*

29, 31/ gutted, guttede*s* monday: *5 March 1564/5*

34/ wennes day: *7 March 1564/5*

Item spente on mary modelande and Iudas	xvj d.
Item geven the presonar*es* on mydsomar even	iiij d.
Item geven to Iudas the same nyghte	iiij d.
Item geven the menstrell at m*as*ter bunbarres medens weddynge	viij d.

…

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 17v *(2 July–1 July)*

…

midsomer euen

®it semed Companys vsed then no banners but *part* of the plays

for Guildinge of Gods face	xij d.
payd God & the 2 docters	xij d.
for horsbread v d. to mynstrells	xij d.
Spent in our Alderman screueners that night	vj d.
…	
…rent of Carriage howse	iiij s.

…

1565–6

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 48v *(11 November 1564–11 November 1565) (Expenses)*

…

Item spende at the alldermans on martens even	ix s.
Item to the menstrell*es* the same nyghte	ij s.

…

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 17v *(1 July–30 June)*

…

for guildinge of litle Gods face xij d. for 3 payre of gloues & horses for the docters & litle God xvj d. more to the Docters & litle God for theyr payns xij d. more when we went about the towne to the p*ri*soners at Castle 4 d. spent on midsomer eue at wach at Towers howse 4 d. at mr Mountfords after wach 4 s.

to mynstrells xvj d.

…rent of Carriage howse iiij s.

…

Great Sessions Order TNA: PRO CHES 24/96/2
single mb

⟨…⟩ Regina fidei defens*or* &c vic*ecomiti* Cestr*ie* sal*u*tem p*re*cipim*us* tibi q*uo*d

venir*e* fac*ias* Coram Iustic*iario* n*ost*ro Cestr*ie* prius ⟨…⟩ tenend' om*n*es ho*min*es qui h*ab*ea*n*t & Custodiant Galli prelia anglice voc*ata* Cockepyttes infra ⟨…⟩gr' sup*er* ip*s*os p*re*sente*s* vnde ind*i*cat*i* sunt Et h*ab*eas ibi ⌜no*min*a eo*rum* &⌝ hoc br*eue* Teste Io*hanne* Throkmorton ar*migero* Iustic*iario* ⟨..⟩no regni n*ost*ri octauo

Byrkehened

1566–7

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 39* *(11 October–10 October)*

…

In this yeare the whitson playes were played in this Cittye by the Cittizins…

…

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542
f [30] *(11 October–10 October)*

…

This yeare whitson playes weare played…

…

AC ***Mayors List 15*** CCALS: DLE 135
f [14v]

…

This yeare [w] the plese weare att whitsyntyd playde…

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 50v* *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…

Inprimis payde Iohn tellston on martens day	xij d.
Item payde wyllyam luter the same day	vj d.
Item payde the menstrell the same day	xij d.
…	
Item payde for the gleves at gutted	iij s. vj d.
…	

f 51*

…

Item payde for bell*es* on mydsomer even	vj d.
Item payde for gloves that nyghte	xij d.

2/ Galli: G *written over* C
23/ whitsyntyd: *18–24 May 1567*
33/ gutted: *10 February 1566/7*

Item payde the menstrell*es* that nyghte	xij d.
Item spente that nyghte at oure aldermane*s*	viij d.
Item payde the presonere*s* that nyghte in the castell	iiij d.
Item payde thomas newton that nyghte	j d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
ff 18–18v* *(30 June 1566–4 July 1567)*

...

for gloues for the docters & litle god on midsomer eue	vj d.
gilding Gods face	xij d.
other ordnary expences for midsomer euen as before	

...

the recets of the bretheren for the plays

of mr founder for the plays ij s. viij d.
of m*aste*r Alder*man* Screuener
of mr knowles
Rob*er*t Croket
Rog*er* ledsham
Io*hn* bradshae
Io*hn* Robenson
w*illia*m Rychardson
Rob*er*t hancoke
Io*hn* ball
yerreon Ryder
hughe Stoken ij s. vj d.
meehoo Trafforte
Rob*er*t hormeson
Io*hn* doo
Ric*hard* smythe
Ric*hard* Richardson
Rondull Lawton
Tho*mas* Towres
all rest ij s. viij d. apeece

will*ia*m Iohnson ij s. viij d.
Io*hn* andro
hughe masse
Tho*mas* hollme
Io*hn* Kempe
Rich*ard* brasse ij s. vj d.
Gye Cormell
Tho*mas* Symcocke
Rog*er* Callcote
Io*hn* hatton iij s.
daue founder iij s.
w*illia*m Cradocke
widow hareson 0
widow p*er*ceuall iij s.
harry Seston xx d.
Io*hn* smyth xx d.
of 6 Iurneymen xvi d. apeece
all the rest aboue ij s. viij d. apeece

the moneys layd downe for our play by w*illia*m Richardson & Tho*mas* Towers Stewards inter alij
for our bill we put vp to m*aste*r mere for the pleys ij d.

15/ founder: *3 minims in MS*

38/ alij: *for* alios

to Newton for the banes j d. for bred for our horses that day we Rod the banes xij d.
for gloues & drinke iiij d.
spent on mr chanter in mr pooles Tauarne iij d. for prisoners in Castell iij d.
Spent at the heringe of the payers x d. at rehersinge vnder St Iohns xiiij d.
at rehearsinge before m*aste*r major ij s. vj d.
spent after the chosinge of the litle god x d. to 2 of clarkes of the menster viij d.
spent on the sonday morninge at the hearinge of the Docters & litle God 4 d.
for the steple & the Trestle or forme iij s. viij d.
for gettinge the Carriage out of the Axeltree viij d. & settinge in of the Carrige into the weuers howse viij d.
for a whole chese ij s. vj d. a bushell of malt 4 s. 4 d. for a barrell & quart of beare v s. viij d. 3 hoopes of wheate 4 s. 8 d. for gorse Salt buter Safforn & a spyte x d.
for gildinge Gods face xij d. to x porters of the Carrage ij s. viij d. to the stewards of the Iorneymen for wachinge the Carrage all night viij d. |
payd one for Carringe of the Regalls ij d. for mending the Crowne & diadem x d.
for 2 p*ar*cells ij d. for mending 2 faxes viij d. to mynstrells ij s. to the players Rob*er*t Rabon xvj d. to the litle god xvj d. to the 2 docter xij d. to the 3 docter xij d. to Ioseph xij d. to dame Anne xij d. to the Angell viij d.
to mr white 4 s. to mr chanter xij d. to w*illia*m Coup*er* xij d. for gloues for the players iij s.
for alle & Spent a Ald*er*mans tauarne ij s. for Skynnes for play iij s. to Hugh stocken ij s. Rich*ard* brasse ij s.
...

1567–8

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 19
f 45v* *(30 April)*

...
M*emoran*d*um* that the xxxth daie of Aprell in Anno decimo Elizabeth &c. mr Randall Trever gent*leman* was called before the maior of the Citie of Chest*er* and was demaunded for the originall booke of the whydson plaies of the said Citie who then and ther confessed that he have had the same booke w*hi*ch book he deposeth vpon the holy evangelist of god that by comaundem*ent* he deliu*er*ed the same booke againe but where the same is now/ or to whom he then deliu*er*ed the same book/ deposeth likwise he knoweth not./

ff 52–2v* *(5 June)*

...
M*emoran*d*um* that whereas varyaunce p*rese*ntly dependeth betwene Iohn

---

5/ payers: *for* players

23/ a: *for* at

whitmore esquier vpon thon p*ar*tie And Anne webst*er* wedow tenant to Georg Ireland esquier vpon thother p*ar*tie for and concerning the claime right and title of A mansion Rowme or place for the whydson plaies in the Brudg gatestrete w*ith*in the Cyty of Chest*er* w*hi*ch varyaunce hath ben here wayed and considered by Ric*hard* dutton esquier maior of the cyty of chester & w*illia*m gerrard esquier Record*er* of the same cyty by whom it is now ordered that forasmuche as the said m*is*tres webster & other the ten*antes* of the said mr [m*is*tres] Ireland have had their plac*es* and mansyons in the said place now in varyaunce in quiet sort for ij [yeres] ‸⌜tymes⌝ past whan the said plaies were plaied/ That the said Anne webster in quiet sort for this p*rese*nte tyme of whydsontide during all the tyme of the said plaies shall enioy and haue her mansyon place and the said place & Rome now in varyaunce: Provided alwaies that the having of the [said] possessyon of the said Rowme place or mansyon shall not be hurtfull nor p*re*iudice to nether of the said p*ar*ties in whom the right of the said p*re*misses is or hereaft*er* shalbe found or p*ro*ved to be: And also yt was | then further ordered by the said maior that aft*er* the feast of pentecost next coming at some convenient tyme an Indifferent enquest shalbe charged and Sworne for the triall of the right of the said Rowme or place now in varyaunce And that in case yt be found by such enquest that the said mr whytmore hath better right to the said p*re*misses thann the said mr [tenantes] Ioreland & his ten*antes*: yt is ordered that then the said m*is*tres webster shall content and pay vnto the said mr. whytmore so much money for the said Rowme[s] and place as hath ben accostomed for this one yere to be payed ‸⌜heretofore⌝ w*ith*in the said cyty of chest*er*

(signed) Richard Dutton
(signed) william gerrard

f 61v* *(3 August)*

of honest behaveour

M*anucaptio* Ioh*ann*is Russhall musici*o*n de Bono gestu suo a tempor*e* in tempus et o*mn*i tempor*e* q*ua*m diu remanserit infra lib*er*tates Cest*rie* aut franch*is*as eiusdem sub pena x li. p*er*icul*o* Rob*er*ti Brome Rad*ulph*i Calveley Thome griff et Rogeri Horton

Relax*atus per* maiore*m* ex assensu p*artium*

proxima

M*anucaptio* Ioh*ann*is Hill harp*er* de pace ferend*a* pro seip*s*o et o*mn*ibu*s* alijs p*er* eius procuramen*tum* Ioh*ann*i Russhall Musici*o*n pueris et s*er*uien*tibus* suis vsq*ue* prox*imam* Curi*am* portmot*i* Ciui*ta*t*is* Cest*rie* p*re*d*icte* hic prox*ime* tenenda*m* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*endu*m* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine Licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er*icul*o* Ioh*ann*is meire hugonis gillam Rad*ulph*i crosse et Ioh*ann*is Rosingreton
Relax*atus* per maiore*m* p*ri*mo die mens*is* Octobris 1568

37m/ p*artium*: *2 minims in* MS

of honest behaveour

M*anucaptio* Petri Kally Music*i*on de bono gestu suo a tempore in tempus et o*mn*i tempore q*ua*m diu remanserit infra Civitat*em* Cestr*ie* et Libertat*es* eiusd*em* Ciuit*atis* sub pena x li. p*er*ic*u*l*o* hugonis gill*am* et Ranulphi Lathwick.

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 39* *(10 October 1567–15 October 1568)*

...

°...& the witson plays well playd vpon charge of the Cittizens free beneuolence by gathering in the chu〈...〉 & 〈.〉treets...°
...m*aste*r mayor kepte a verye worthy howse, for all Comers dureinge all the tyme of Christmas, w*i*th a lorde of misrule and other pastymes in his cittye °as the witson plays°

...

AC ***Mayors List 7*** BL: Harley MS 2133
f 42v *(10 October 1567–15 October 1568)*

...

This yeare the Whitson playes were plaid and Diuers other pastimes

A ***Mayors List 9*** BL: Additional MS 29777
mb [12] *(10 October 1567–15 October 1568)*

...

In this yeare the same Playes were playde & well set forthe...

...

AC ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 12v *(10 October 1567–15 October 1568)*

...

Rich*ard* Dutton Mayor kepte house at the white freeyers. and [with] all the twelve dayes of Christmas. kepte open house: for meate and drinke at meale tyme: for any that came:/ All the Christmas tyme was a Lo*rd* of Miserule:

...

AC ***Mayors List 15*** CCALS: DLE 135
f [14v] *(10 October 1567–15 October 1568)*

...

In this yeare at christmas ther was a lord of mise Rule...

...

8–9/ & the ... 〈.〉treets: *in* RH II*'s hand*
12/ as ... plays: *in* RH II*'s hand*

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2

p 61 *(25 March–24 June) (Extraordinary expenses)*

…	
Item paid for a brode clothe againste the witson pleaes	vj s. viij d.
Item for a barell of bere to yeue to the pleares to make them to drincke	vj s.
Item for packe threed at witson daye to hange vp the clothe	ij d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 51 *(11 November 1566–11 November 1567) (Expenses)*

…	
Item payde the menstrell on martens even	xij d.
Item payde that nyghte att oure alldermans	vj s. iiij d.
…	

f 52* *(11 November 1567–11 November 1568)*

…	
Ite*m* payde the menstrell at thomas byrchenhedd*es* drynkynge	xij d.
Ite*m* payde the same day to the menstrell at Robarte askers	vj d.
…	
Ite*m* payde at gutted for the gleves	iij s. viij d.
Ite*m* for oure drynkynge on gutted*es* monday	xviij s.
Ite*m* payde the menstrell*es* that day	ij s.
Ite*m* payde newton & the presonar*es* y*a*t day y*a*t whe rode ye banes	v d.
…	
Ite*m* payde the menstrell*es* on mydsomar even	ij s.
Ite*m* payde the presonar*es* that nyghte	iiij d.
Ite*m* spente on the brethren at the barr*es* that nyghte	vj d.
Item payde for gonne powder	xvj d.
Item payde for mare modeland*es* horsse & hyr Rydynge	xvj d.
Ite*m* spente at oure alldermans that nyghte	iiij d.
Ite*m* spente at the borroenge of mare modeland*es* Saddell	iiij d.
Ite*m* spente at the stwarte symcock*es* that nyghte at the wacche	vj d.
…	

7/ witson daye: *6 June 1568*

22, 23/ gutted, gutted*es* monday: *1 March 1567/8*

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1
ff [35–7]*

for whytsone playes the yeare of oure °whitson plays°
lord God A thousant fyue hu*n*dreth
thrye score & eyght then mayre of the
Sytte of chester mr Ryc*hard* dutton °[1568]/1567°

furst payd for the Reste of A counte at oure firste metyng	ij d.
I*tem* payd to the sharemon for the dressyng of oure skynes	viij d.
I*tem* payd to Gryffe talyer for makyng of oure hudd*es*	xij d.
I*tem* for oure horss*es* at the Rydyng*es* of the banes	xvj d. [viij d.]
I*tem* to the prysoners	j d.
I*tem* to newton for Rydyng of the bane*s*	j d.
I*tem* [for ij 〈...〉 of 〈...〉	〈...〉 d.]
I*tem* spentt at Thomas Ionsons to speke w*ith* mr Chaunter for shepert*es* boyes	ij d.
I*tem* payd for paper to coppye the orrygenall	ij d.
I*tem* payd at oure first Rehersse at oure Aldermans	xvj d.
I*tem* payd for the Rest of A counte at a meting A nenest Ryc*hard* garralt for the Rest of A shote	v d.
I*tem* spente at Ryc*hard* halowod*es* A boute the hyryng of the caryge	iiij d.
I*tem* spente at mr hankyes A bowte mr bryd	vj d.
I*tem* spente at master hankyes at A Rehersse the same daye	v d. |
I*tem* spente at oure Aldermans the same daye	xij d.
I*tem* sppente at oure aldermans when we Re hersed before m*aste*r mayre	ij s. vj d.
I*tem* spent at oure Aldermans the furst tyme we mett in the Come*n*hall	xx d.
I*tem* spent for boreyng of Coueryng & A naked chyld	ij d.
I*tem* payd for mogges	ij s. vj d.
I*tem* payd to the beryg for payntyng of oure ox & asse & our pye in the co*m*mon hall	iiij d.
I*tem* payd for A best*es* baly to dener	x d.
I*tem* payd for wosshyng puddyng*es*	j d. ob.
I*tem* payd for Coppyng of oure orygenall	xij d.
I*tem* spente at Iohan Cockes to borrow bottell*es*	ij d.
I*tem* payd for botter to the playe	viij d.

5/ whitson plays: *in* RH II*'s hand*
8/ [1568]/1567: *in* RH II*'s hand*

I*tem* for Chesse	v d.
I*tem* payd for nayles	iij d.
I*tem* payd for A corde	ij d.
I*tem* for whysṭel*es*	j d.
I*tem* for pynnes	j d.
I*tem* for poynt*es*	j d.
I*tem* spente at Ry*chard* halewod*es* vpon wytson Sondaye in drynke	iiij d.
I*tem* spente to same daye vpon the shepert*es* Boyes	ij d.
I*tem* payd for brydd*es*	ij d. |
I*tem* payd for crabefysshes	ij d.
I*tem* for mendyng Trowes Cote	ij d.
I*tem* for Coppyng A pa*r*sell	iiij d.
I*tem* for potes of ale ‸⌈at Ry*chard* halewod*es*⌉ when we dressed oure playes & when we made oure capes & cot*es*	vj d.
I*tem* payd for bred to the playe	iiij d.
I*tem* payd for bere to them y*a*t puted the Caryge	[iiij d.] vj d.
I*tem* payd to viij putters of the caryge	iij s.
I*tem* payd to the mynstrell*es*	iij s. iiij d.
I*tem* payd to Ioseff	x d.
I*tem* payd for mete for the asse	viij d.
I*tem* payd toward*es* the fecchyng of him	iiij d.
I*tem* payd for horsse brede to harvyes horse	iiij d.
I*tem* payd to Iohan howtton for A qarter of vele	xvi d.
I*tem* for a qarter of corsse vele	viij d.
I*tem* for a best*es* bely & calues fette	viij d.
I*tem* for a Mydcalffe And Anox tonge	viij d.
I*tem* for a calues hed	iiij d.
I*tem* for a grone	ij d.
[I*tem* for A 〈…〉 of 〈…〉	vj d.]
[I*tem* to the mayde 〈…〉 for A 〈…〉 hed	iiij d.]
I*tem* for a Tuppes hed	ij d.
I*tem* for Ale at Iohan Cokes	iiij d.
I*tem* to oure ladye*s* wayg*es*	viij d.
I*tem* to iiij shep*er*d*es* boyes	ij s. viij d.
I*tem* for the hyre of oure Caryge	iiij s.
I*tem* for a payre of pu*m*pes And Trowes shewes	xvj d. |
I*tem* to Ry*chard* halewodd*es* wyffe for xv[j] hagays	vij d.
I*tem* to her for bacon	vj d.

7/ wytson Sondaye: *6 June 1568*
9/ same: *2 minims in* MS
24, 25/ qarter: *for* quarter

I*tem* to her for a calues hed	iiij d.
I*tem* to her for brede & ale ‸⌜in the mornyng⌝ to the puter*es* & the mynstrell*es* And at oure supper	iiij s.
I*tem* for p*ar*bolyng of the garbyge	xvj d.
I*tem* [to iiij shepp*er*tes boyes	ij s. viij d.]
I*tem* for a q*uarter* of A lambe to Iohn howt*o*n	x d.
I*tem* for v haggassys to Ram*m*esdale*s* wyffe	ij s. ij d.
I*tem* for a garnyshe for the lyttell chyld	ij d.
I*tem* for one pottell of bere at oure alldermans	ij d.
I*tem* payd to the mynstrell*es* vppon mydsomer euen	vj d.
I*tem* to the prysoners the same tyme	j d.
I*tem* to Rych*ard* halewodd*es* wyffe for brede vppon mydsomer euen	viiij d.
I*tem* to her for [⟨…⟩ the] drynke the same tyme	ij s. viij d.
I*tem* for A pottell of whytt wyne	vj d.
I*tem* for samontt	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* to the eldest shepp*er*tt	ij s.
I*tem* to the second shepp*er*tt	xx d.
to the thryd shepp*er*tt	xx d.
I*tem* to trow	ij s. [ij d.]
I*tem* to trowes boye	vj d.
I*tem* to tow shepp*er*tt*es* for goyng vppon mydsomer euen	x d.
I*tem* to the tow shepp*ertes* when the [shepp*ertes* whytsone] banes were Rydden	x d.
I*tem* to him that Rydeth the orrygynall	xij d.
I*tem* to the angell	vj d.

the sum ys iiij li. ij s. vj d. |

The hole some of the whytsone playes And all the Charg*es* of oure occupacyon ‸⌜excepte quarteryg*es*⌝ from Saynt lukedaye vntyll the vth of Iuly ys iiij li. ij s. vj d. wyche ys for euery brother – v s. vj d.

whereof Thomas powle ys bated in his p*ar*te	iij d.
I*tem* Me*mora*nd*um* that Rych*ard* Calye ys indetted to the occupacyon for whytsone playes	v s. v d.
I*tem* due to him for income brydren	ij s. ix d.
I*tem* he ys behind for Charg*es* vppon Sayst luke daye	iij d.

…

34/ Memorandum: M *written over* Rec
37/ Sayst: *for* Saynt

f [37v]*

for oure expensys sencys the vth of Iuly when we Recond for wytsones playes *(blank)*

furst payd for the Rest of a shott at Thomas gylones the vth of Iuly ij d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
ff 18v–19* *(4 July–4 July)*

another reseveste of the bretheren for the plays
Reseved of mr mounfort ij s. ij d. Called before mr founder
of oure allderman scrifnor 2 s. ij d.
of mr knowlles
of Rob*er*t Coket ante Crocket
Rog*er* ledsame
Io*hn* brosho bradshaw ante
Ric*hard* newas
willi*a*m Richardson
Rob*er*t hankock
Io*hn* ball
herryen Ryder
hug*h* Stoken
meo Traffort
x Rob*er*t ormson mort
Io*hn* doo
Rich*ard* smythe
Rich*ard* Robynson 0
Io*hn* honteton
Ron*dle* Laton
Tho*mas* Towers
willi*a*m Ionson
Io*hn* Andro
hug*h* masse
tomas holmes
Io*hn* kemp
Gye Cromell
tomas simkoke
Rog*er* kalket
Io*hn* haton
dauid mounfort ante founder
willi*a*m Cradok
wido Robinson
wido p*er*suow xij d.
Io*hn* smythe
Tho*mas* haswall
Ed borlay
Rich*ard* ledsham
Rich*ard* Ionson

all ij s. ij d. apeece

1568 these byn the somes of monaye that ware lade doune by Ric*hard* newhous & willi*a*m Ionson about our playes thys yere w*hi*ch is the ix yere of our Reyne

An*no* d*omi*ni 1568

for our byll we put vp to m*aste*r meare ij d.

3/ sencys: *for* sence
15/ ante Crocket: *underlined*
17/ bradshaw ante: *underlined*
36/ ix ... Reyne: *underlined*

for gloues & horsbred when we rid the banes xviij d.,
Spent on the chanter & clarke of the mynster v d. at our first reherse at Ald*erman* skruenors ij s. 4 d. to p*ri*soners in Castell 4 d. giuen to m*aste*r mere to wards the makinge of a new booke xij d. at the hyerynge of the Menstrells & Consell of Simion iij d.
Spent at Gilb*ert* flowers vpon mr wite & S*ir* Rondle barnes vij d. for 2 bosshell malt vij s. 4 d. ob. for wheate ij s. ij d. ob., 2 ould cheses ij s. 8 d.
for beefe at our generall reherse viij s. x d.
for a pound of grey sope iij d.
for boled mete for them that broght the new cheses xij d.
for kakes at our generall reherse ij s. spice vij d. salt iij d. viniger 3 d. for bourne 4 d. for bacon on tewsday morning for players brekfast x d.
for vele same tyme 14 d. chekens xvj d. bred viij d.
to griff Yeuans wife to pay for wessing the Curtens 4 d.
for neles pinns nedles cords ix d. to 10 men for portage of Carrag ij s. 6 d.
to the prentis when we gat in our Cariage to drink viij d.
to the Right for gettinge the Carriag off & on viij d.
to mr Rond*le* barnes 3 s. 4 d. to mr wyte for singinge 4 s.
to mary 2 s. to Ioseph xij d. to litle god xvj d. |
for gylding Gods face on midsom̄er euen xij d.
to newton & p*ri*soners vj d.
to the docters & litle god xij d. to menstrells ij s.
for gloues to litle god & docters ix d.
spent at mr mounfforts iij s. ij d.
...

1568–9

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/13
mb [3] *(15 October–14 October)* *(Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

The Steuart*es* of ye Drapers for a carage howse bylt on the cittiz ground of yerely rent	viij d.
...	
It*em* for the m*er*cers carage howse of yerly rent	vj d.
...	

mb [4] *(Expenses)*

...

Itam paid the mores dansares at mydsomer	vj s. viij d.
Itam paid the mynstrells w*hi*ch plaid before them	xvj d.
...	

12/ tewsday morning: *8 June 1568*

12/ morning: *3 minims for* nin *in* MS

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [1]* *(20 November–20 November) (Payments)*

...

Item for the hyre of too copes & men to were them & pennes and for the wrytyngs & for drenke whan ye were in dreseng & vndreseng on medsomer euen	ii s. iiii d.
more spend on ye company in thomas lenekers the same nyght	xvi d.
Item spend in the wedo thropes on the company	ix d.
Item payde to master mare for on halfe yere for the hauen	viii s.
more spend in Iohn stynsons on ye company	xiii d.
Item to the presoners on medsomer euen	ii d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 52v *(11 November 1567–11 November 1568) (Expenses)*

...

Ite*m* payde the menstrell*es* on martens even	xij d.

...

f 54* *(11 November 1568–11 November 1569)*

...

Item payde for the gleves at gutted	iij s. viij d.

...

Item payde for ṣettynge forthe of mare modelante	xvj d.
Ite*m* geven vnto the presenor*es* at the castell	iiij d.
Ite*m* geven vnto the menstrell*es* on mydsomer even	[xi] ij s.
Item spente at oure alldermans that nyghte	vj d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [38]* *(18 October–18 October)*

...

°midsomer show [⟨.⟩] whitson plays°

forste payde at ouar brodear wette Denner ⌈for a pottell of seke⌉	x d.
Ite*m* payde oft the men⌈°s°⌉trell at my brodar wette Denner	viij d.

...

22/ gutted: *21 February 1568/9*

34/ midsomer ... plays: *in RH II's hand*

It*em* lede oute for the menstrells at welliam sheuenton wed⌜i⌝ng	iiij d.
. . .	
Item a pone messomar nighte at ouare alldarmane	v s. vj d.
Item the same feste amesomar nighte in wyne	viij d.
Item pede to the pressonars	ij d.
. . .	
It*em* pade to Rychard daeby and [the mynstrells] for mydsomer nyght	viij d.

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 19 *(4 July–3 July)*

. . .	
on st Loys day to 2 mynstrells	viij d.
. . .	

1569–70

AC ***Holy Trinity Churchwardens' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2177
f 28v*

. . .	
sould to Thomas sheuyntons sonne the belman & Tho*mas* Dychers sonne 3 Course vestments & a course Stremer to make players garments	viij s.
. . .	

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [2]* *(20 November–20 November) (Payments)*

. . .	
Item payde to wyllyam rogerson for the lone of to copes	iiii d.
more payde to them that caryed them and for drenke whan the were in dressenge and oon dressenge	xx d.
more spend on the companye at nyght whan the from the wache in Iohn stynsones	ii s. vi d.
more to the presoneres	ii d.
Item spend on the companye in Iohn stynsones ye xii of Iuly	xii d.
. . .	

1/ alldarmane: *for* alldarmanes

29/ wyllyam: *2 minims in* MS

32/ the from: *for* the came from *(?)*

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 54v* *(11 November 1568–11 November 1569) (Expenses)*

Item a pottell of secke at Rychard wyllsons denne	x d.
Item geven the menstrell*es* the same day	ij s.
Item payde the clarke for hys wag*es*	xvj d.
Item spente at makynge the booke	iiij d.
Item payde the menstrell at alexander wylldyg*es* denner	viij d.
Item payde the same day for a pottell of secke	xij d.
Item payde at oure alldermans on martens even for bred ale chesse ⌜& bere⌝ [nutt*es* & appell*es* & other*es*]	viij s. iiij d.
Item payde for a gallon of secke	ij s.
Item geven mayster s⟨..⟩ythe a quart of secke & a pound ⌜worthe⌝ of kakes	vij d.
Item geven the menstrell*es* *ya*t nyghte	xvj d.

…

ff 56–7* *(11 November 1569–11 November 1570)*

…

Ite*m* payd for one pottell secke to oure brethren at wylli*am* burrtaynes drynkynge	xij d. |
Ite*m* geven to the menstrell*es* the same day	ij s.

…

Ite*m* payde for the gleves at gutted	iij s. iiij d.
Ite*m* spente at the Resevynge of the gleves	ij d.

…

Ite*m* payde for settynge forthe of mary modeland	xviij d.
Ite*m* spente on mydsomar even at oure alldermans	xv d.
Ite*m* geven the presonar*es* that nyghte	iiij d.
Ite*m* payde for bere that nyghte at symcock*es*	ij d. |
Ite*m* payde newton the same nyghte	j d.
Ite*m* payd the menstrell*es* the same nyghte	ij s. vj d.
Ite*m* payd mayster whytte for oure song*es*	iiij d.

…

Ite*m* payde for vyne & the menstrell*es* at wyllyam burgaynes dennar	iij s. vj d.
Ite*m* payde for vyne & the menstrel*es* at Iohn poop*es* dennar	ij s.

…

4/ denne: *for* denner

24/ gutted: *6 February 1569/70*

Painters’, Glaziers’, Embroiderers’, and Stationers’ Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [41] *(18 October–18 October)*

°midsomer show no whitson play°

...

It*em* to Thomas newton	i d.
It*em* to our mynstrell	ij d.
It*em* to A nother mynstrell	vj d.
It*em* to the prysoners	ij d.
It*em* to oure Aldermans wyffe for oure Charges vppon mydsomer euen	vj s.
It*em* for the ‸⸢iij⸣ shepp*er*etes wayg*es*	xviij d.
It*em* for a payre of gloues to the angell	ij d.

...

AC *Smiths’, Cutlers’, and Plumbers’ Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2054

f 19 *(3 July–2 July)*

...

for horsmete to the horses at midsomer	iij s.
to the docters and some of the Company iiij d. minstrells ij s.	
to the 2 dougters & litle god & j d. S*ir* Rob*er*t Spent	xiij d.
to prisoners at Castell	ij d.
for gildinge of gods face	xij d.

...

to weuers for rent of Carrage howse	iiij s.

Examinations of John Boland and Richard Case TNA: PRO CHES 15/2

ff [3–3v]* *(9 May)*

...

Iohn boland sherma*n* dwellyng in chest*er* of the age of thryttye [yeare*s*] yeare*s* or there abowt*es* sworne and exa*mined*
To the first he sayth he knoyth the sayd p*ar*tyes and haith known margaret Rodon wydow for these [fowre] ‸⸢thre⸣ yeare*s* or there abowt*es* and wyll*ia*m bryd and Robart Brerewood he haith known above these xx^{tye} yeare*s*
To the second this exa*minate* sayth ‸⸢and knoythe⸣ that the same yeare *y*a*t* sir wyll*ia*m sneade was mayre of chester w*hi*ch this exa*minate* thynkyth to be abowt*es* [fowre] ‸⸢thre⸣ yeare*s* ‸⸢and more⸣ wyll*ia*m bryd and Robart brerewood were then shereff*es* of the cytye of chest*er* and kepers of the comyn gayle called the northe gate havyng in there custodye and kepyng at the same tyme one margarett Rodon wyddow [⟨...⟩] a prysoner and beynge in execusyon for

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4/ midsomer ... play: *in RH II’s hand*

[certeyn] gret som*m*es of moneye recoveryd by mr Iohn norburye pd; the sayd sheriff*es* dyd suffer and *per*mytt the sayd wyddow rodon to goo abrode and at large out of the sayd gayle, and this exa*minate* hath sene the same wyddow Rodon | at the grene vnd*er* the wall*es* by the mynster at a reherse of a playe w*hi*ch was ‸⌜to be⌝ playd; at whytsontyde followyng and this exa*minate* haith allso sene her at the new tow⟨..⟩ on a nother tyme, when there was a nother play⟨.⟩ rehersed; and beyng exa*mined* whether he this exa*minate* dy⟨.⟩ see her w*i*th her keper or not; sayth that he dyd see no keper w*i*th her nor doith not kno that any was w*i*th her, and further this exa*minate* sayth that he hath meanye tym*es* sene her goo thro the stretes w*i*th a lytyll boye dyvers tym*es* w*i*th her; [but whether] and hath bene absent in the towne thre or fowre howr*es* together, afore she hath come whome agayne, vnto the gayle, and beyng asked how he knoyth the same sayth that he hath sene ‸⌜her⌝ many tym*es* passe by the exa*minate*s shoppe when she went into the towne ‸⌜and hath sene her goyng & com*m*yng⌝ and more he knoyth not nor to whome she dyd resorte but ‸⌜manye⌝ [many] tym*es* she went abrode into the Cyte to whome, or for what cause, the exa*minate* knoyth

Iohn boland

...

ff [8–8v]

Richard case one of the fowre *ser*geant*es* attendyng on the mayre of chest*er* and ‸⌜vnder⌝ keper of the gayle or northegate of the same cytye; of the age of fyftye vj yeare*s* or ther abowt*es* sworne and exam*ined*
To the first he sayth he knoyth the sayd *par*tyes in the Interrogatorye named and for margaret Rodon he saythe he hath known her abowt thre yeare*s* and a halffe and hath knowne wyll*ia*m bryd and robart brerewood above twentye yeare*s*./ [and]
To the seconde this exam*inate* sayth and knoyth that the same yeare that Sir wyll*ia*m Sneade was mayre and wyll*ia*m brydd and Robart brerewood ‸⌜were⌝ sheriff*es* of the cytye of chest*er* and kepers of the Commyn gayle or pryson called the northegate havyng one margaret Rodon wyddow [in execu] comytted vnto there kepynge ‸⌜and a prysoner⌝ and beying in execusyon for certayne som*m*es of monaye recoveryd by mr Iohn norbraye pd the sayde sheriff*es* dyd suffer and *per*mytt the sayde wyddow rodon beyng a preyssoner to goo abrode into the cytye of chest*er*, and beyng exam*ined* whether the sayd wyddow went, and vnto whome this exam*inate* sayth that he hath gone w*i*th her hym selfe syns [she] ‸⌜she was in⌝ execusyon, owt of the gayle vnto mr norburyes, and somtym*es* w*i*th her [at] ‸⌜to⌝ m*aste*r recorders, and [at] to wyll*ia*m dymock*es*,

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1, 35/ pd: *for* payd *(?); abbreviation mark omitted* 17/ knoyth: *for* knoyth not and he sayth that she went owt of the gayle w*i*th this exam*inate* or w*i*th some other keper in the whitsonweke when the playes of Chest*er* were playd afor sir wyll*ia*m Sneade he beyng ‸⌈then⌉ mayre of Chest*er*; and went to speke w*i*th mr Royse done lyeng then at m*aste*r deane*s* howse in the mynster, Soo that this exa*minate* sayth dyvers tym*es* she hath gone w*i*th her keper to speke w*i*th her frend*es* in the cytye w*i*thin the lybertyes of | of chester w*hi*ch this exam*inate* thynkyth hath bene accustomed tyme owt of mynd for the prysoners beynge charged but for dett to be lycensed to goo abrode w*i*th ther kepers, w*i*th [her] ‸⌈them⌉ unto the cytye to speke w*i*th ther frend*es* and acquentans, and beyng exam*ined* whether she ever went w*i*th owt a keper into the towne; or went at any tyme owt of the lybertyes of the cytye the exam*inate* saythe apon his othe he knoyth not nor more he can depose

Ric*hard* case

1570–1

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [2v] *(20 November–20 November) (Receipts)*

...

more Rese*uyd* off the coper on medssomere	xij d.

...

(Payments)

more payd to the menstreles and to the presoners at medsomer	vj d.
It*em* spend on the companye on medsomer ewen in thomas lenekers	xv d.
more spend on the companye in the wedo thropes	vj d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 57 *(11 November 1569–11 November 1570) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* payde the menstrell*es* on martens even	ij s. viij d.

...

f 60* *(11 November 1570–11 November 1571)*

...

It*em* payde vnto the menstrel*es* at Rawffe hylltons drynkynge	xij d.

6/ of of: *dittography*

Ite*m* payd the menstrell*es* at wyllyam
fletcher*es* drynkynge xvj d.

...

Ite*m* geven vnto the menstrell*es* at Rychard
Pammertons drynkinge xx d.

...

Ite*m* geven the menstrell*es* in Iohn Dalaheys ij d.
Ite*m* payde for the geves iij s. iiij d.
Ite*m* spente on the golldsmythe ij d.
Ite*m* spente on oure brethren at Rondoll hynces xvj d.
Ite*m* geven the weattemen the same day iiij d.

...

f 60v*

...

Ite*m* spente on the [myd] mynstrell*es* on mydsomer
even v d.
Ite*m* geven to the presoner*es* & thomas loker vj d.
Ite*m* payde the menstrell the same nyghte ij s. vj d.

...

Ite*m* geven the menstrel*es* at Rawffe hylltons
[drynkynge] denner v s. viij d.
Ite*m* geven the menstrel*es* at wyllyam fletcher*es* denner xx d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [45] *(18 October–18 October)*

...

°midsomer show no whitson plays°

furst payd to the mynstrell*es* vppon Saynte luk*es* daye
at oure aldermans xij d.

...

Ite*m* for towe men goyng on the stylt*es* xij d.
Ite*m* [⟨...⟩] ‸⌈spent⌉ at Robert halewood*es* vppon
mydsomer euen j d.
Ite*m* spente goyng to the barrs vppon the same tyme iij d.
Ite*m* geuen to the prysoners the same tyme ij d.
Ite*m* spente vppon mydsomer euen in gudchere iiij s.
Ite*m* payd to the mynstrells the same tyme xvj d.

...

8/ geves: *for* gleves

30/ midsomer ... plays: *in* RH II*'s hand*

AC **_Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts_** BL: Harley MS 2054

f 19v *(2 July–1 July)*

...

Myddesomer Euiene

for our syne xvj d. for things that went to dresse our child vij d. to cryor j d. prisoners iiij d. mynstrells ij s. ij d. charges of our harneys xviij d. other expences at Ald*erman* Scryuenors mr Mountforts & Tho*mas* Towers *(blank)*

...

1571–2

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 20

f 45v* *(5 September)*

Bartholomewtide 1572

Music*i*ons

Edward Ionson Relax*atus*

M*emorandum* q*uo*d quint*o* die Septembris Anno Regni d*omin*e Elizabeth*e* dei gra*tia* Angl*ie* ffraunc*ie* et hib*ernie* Regine fidei defensor*is* &c. xiiij^{to} Edwardus Ionson de Hanbridg*e* in Com*itatu* Ciui*tatis* Cestr*ie* Music*i*on Edwardus doby de ead*em* in Com*itatu* Ciui*tat*is p*re*dict*e* glaseor et Rad*ulph*us Hulton de d*ict*a Ciuitat*e* shomaker vener*unt* in proprijs p*er*sonis suis cora*m* Ioh*anne* Hanky Maior*e* Ciui*tatis* p*redicte* in pe⟨.⟩l⟨...⟩ Ciui*tatis* p*redicte* et tunc et ib*id*em recogn*ouerunt* sese et quemlib*et* eor*um* p*er* se deber*e* d*icte* d*omin*e Regine quinq*ue* libras legal*is* monet*e* Anglie Soluend*as* eid*em* d*omi*ne Regine hered*ibus* vel successor*ibus* suis &c Et nisi &c.

The Condic*i*on of this recognizaunce is suche That where thaboue bounden Edward Ionson hath p*re*sumed to play vpon his Instrument of musick w*i*thin the liberties of the Citie of Chester sithens the said ffeast of St Bartholomew thappostell last past and gon*e* abrode vsing the same contrary to the tenor of An Acte of p*ar*lyament against such vagarant and idell p*er*sons this p*re*sent yere made and p*ro*vided Therefore yf the said Edward Ionson doe p*er*sonally App*er*e before m*aste*r Maior and other*es* of the Iustic*es* of peace w*i*thin the said Citie at the next Gen*er*all Sessions of her highnes peace to be holden and kepte in the said Citie and vpon his App*er*aunce do not dep*ar*te w*i*thout the speciall Licens of the said Maior And do not at any tyme in the meane tyme vse/ trade nor com*m*ytt or do any arte trade vsage thinge or thing*es* contrary to the tenor and effect of the said [c] statute That &c or elle*s* &c.

f 46*

...

p*er* p*er*iculum

M*anucaptio* Edmundi Cally de Ciuitat*e* Cestrie music*i*on de pace ferend*a* Will*el*mo Davison de ead*em* Ciui*tat*e vsq*ue* proxim*am* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*redicte* p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*id*em ad comp*ar*end*um* et

abinde no*n* reced*et* sine Licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*er*icull*um* Henr*ici* helm will*elmi* Richardson Rob*er*ti Thornley et Andree Tailor.

...

f 46v

m*ichaelis*

M*anucaptio* Petri Cally de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* musicion de bono gestu suo erga o*mnes* offic*iarios* et ministr*os* d*omi*ne Regine in com*itatu* Ciuit*atis* pred*icte* vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* &c compar*uit* et delib*eratur* vlt*er*ius in forma p*redicta* vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciu*itatis* p*redicte* p*roxime* tenend*am* post ff*estum* san*c*ti mich*ae*lis Arch*angel*i p*roximum* futur*um* Et tunc et ib*id*em ad comp*arendum* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* Sine Licenc*ia* sub pen*a* xl li. Thom*e* Burg*es* Thom*e* Backr*e* Rob*er*ti Thornly et Will*elmi* Kalse

...

ff 47–7v *(8 September)*

...

per periculum

M*anucaptio* Petri Callie de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* music*io*n de Bono gestu suo o*mni*bus offic*iarijs* et ministr*is* do*mi*ne Regine in Com*itatu* Ciuit*atis* pred*icte* vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciuit*atis* pred*icte* vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciuit*atis* p*redicte* p*roxime* tenendam et tunc et ib*id*em ad comp*arend*um et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*llum Andree Taillor Tho*me* Backr*e* Ioh*anni*s Stevenson et Ioh*anni*s plat |

Mich*aelis*

M*anucaptio* Edmund*i* Cally de Ciuit*at*e Cestr*ie* music*io*n de pac*e* ferend*a* pro seips*o* et o*mni*bus alijs p*er* eius p*ro*curament*um* will*el*mo davison vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* &c compar*ui*t et delib*eratur* vlt*er*ius de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*o* will*el*mo vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciuit*atis* predict*e* p*roxime* tenend*am* post ff*estu*m Sanc*t*i Mich*ae*lis Arch*angel*i p*roximum* et tunc et ib*id*em ad comp*arendum* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* Sine Licencia Sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*llum Ioh*anni*s mere henr*ic*i helm Andrei Tailer Rob*er*ti Thornly

...

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/14
mb [3] *(12 October–10 October)* *(Rental receipts for Watergate Street)*

...

vnpaid	The Stuardes of the drapers for acarage housse byld one the cittes Landes of rent for the same	vi ⟨.⟩

...

	Item the mercers carege howse yearly rent	vj d.

...

20–1/ vsq*ue*[1]... pred*icte*: *dittography*

mb [5]

…

It*em* payd the moris dancers at mydsomar vi ⟨.⟩

…

mb [6]

…

Payd for vj yardes quarter of cloth for the wetmen [iii]
at vij s. v d. a yard xlvj s. iiij d. ob.

…

A ***Mayors List 1*** BL: Harley MS 1046
f 163v* *(12 October–10 October)*

…

This yeare the Maior would needs haue the playes (com*m*only called Chester playes) to goe forward, againste ye willes of ye Bishops of Canterbury Yorke & Chester

…

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 39v *(12 October–10 October)*

…

The Whitson playes were played this yeare/ °to the dislike of many°

…

AC ***Mayors List 7*** BL: Harley MS 2133
f 43 *(12 October–10 October)*

…

This yeare whitson playes were plaied, And an Inhibition was sent from the Archbishop to stay them but it Came too late.

…

A ***Mayors List 9*** BL: Additional MS 29777
mb [12] *(12 October–10 October)*

…

In this yeare the whole Playes were playde thoughe manye of the Cittie were sore against the settinge forthe therof

…

23/ to … many: *in RH II's hand*

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542
f [30v] *(12 October–10 October)*

...

This yeare the playes weare played but an inhibition came from the archebusshoppe of yorke to staye theim but came not in tyme

...

AC ***Mayors List 15*** CCALS: DLE 135
f [15v] *(12 October–10 October)*

...

This yeare the please weare played in chest*er*

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2
p 99* *(25 November–25 November)*

...

It*em* for ^⌜ye hyre⌝ of a clothe for ye ma*n*syon ou*er* ye gat*es*	vj s.
It*em* for cordes	xvj d.
It*em* for a barrell of byre to ye players	viij s.

...

Consistory Court Depositions CCALS: EDC 2/9
p 271* *(27 September) (Deposition of Blanche Webb of Backford)*

...

Ad xi interr*ogatorium* This depone*n*t saieth that she was in company w*i*th her sister the pl*aintiffs* mother bie reason of the plaies of Chester the same tyme

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
ff [3–3v] *(20 November–20 November)*

...

Reseuyd of the paynters and of the skyners for the caryge	x s. iiii d.

...

(Expenses)

In primis the herryng of the playeres and leuerynge of persells to the holle ys	ix d.
Item spend of the Ryddyng of the banes & other thynges	xii d.
Item spend at the forst Reherse & ye delyueryng of oure gerre to ye payntter	x d.
Item coste the brekynge of the caryge the bernggyn yt up to ye stuerdes doure	xviii d.

41/ bernggyn: *for* brenggyn

Item too selles to the caryge the pryse	ii s. viii d.
more payde to Iohn croulay for the makyng of ye caryge and nayles	iiii s.
Item for ye carynge ye welles to the water and frome & ye berygh of ye caryge	vii d.
more spende whan ye payntars came to garne ye bereghe and at the seconde Reherse in the stuardes lenekers	ix d.
Item for ieren & byndyng of a welle & one stable one neue welle and the dresyng of one howlde welle the wyche com*m*es to	v s. i d.
more spende in gresenge of the caryghe ⌜welles⌝ & grese to yt the ladar & the settyng vp of yt one the welles	xiiii d.
more for frettes & for axeltre penes	viii d.
Item spende at the brengeng vp ⌜of yt⌝ to ye menster gatte for cordes & penes to sette vp the howsynge of the caryghe	ii s.
more spend at dener one the company & one players and at nyght whan the vndressed them and all the daye	vii s. iiii d. |
payde for the carynge of pylates clothes	vi d.
payde to wyllyam Rogerson for ⌜a⌝ cope & a tenekell	vi d.
payde to wyllyam trolloke by ye consant of ye company	vii d.
payde to vii men putters of the caryghe	ii s. iiii d.
payde to hugh gyllam	vi s. vii d.
payde to Thomas marser	ii s. iii d.
payde to Iohn stynson	ii s. iii d.
payde to Rychard kalle	xvi d.
payde to hugh sparke for ryedyng of the Ryegenalle	ii s.
Item payde to Iohn proulay for the brekyng of ye caryghe	vii d.
more payde to Iohn Ioanson for laynge the caryghe in hys seller	xviii d.
more spend at ye takyng done of yt & ye laynge in of yt	vii d.
Item payde for the payntyng of oure gere	iii s. viii d.
Item spend one sante edmondes daye on the companye	iii s. x d.

the some ys in all y*at* the playes lyes in xlix s. x d.

...

more payde ⌜for⌝ the armes one medsomer euen	xii d.
Item a perre of gloues to the chylde y*at* caryede the armes & a quarte of wyne to hys mother and for the makynge of hys cloke	xi d.
more to wyllyam Rychyrson and to the presoners	iii d.
more to Rondul thrope for the bryngyge upe of the horse	i d.
spende in Iohn stynson one medsomereuen	xxii d.
more spende at ye Reseuynge of the paynters & skyners mone	vj d.

...

19/ trolloke: *first* l *written over* u
19, 21/ vii d.: v *written over* ii

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

ff 60v–1 *(11 November 1570–11 November 1571) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* geven vnto the menstrell*es* at Ryc*hard* pemmertons denner	xvij d. |
It*em* geven the menstrell*es* on martens even	iij s. iiij d.

...

f 63 *(11 November 1571–11 November 1572)*

...

Item spente on thursse day after guttedes day in Rondull hynces over the shotte	iiij s. j d.
Item payde for a quarte of meathe to m*aste*r Recorder the same day	iij d.
Item geven the weete men the same day	xij d.
Item payde for the gleves	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* spente on the goldesmythe y*a*t made the gleves	iiij d.
Item geven the stewart*es* of the Iornemen for there attendance	vj d.

...

It*em* spente at Iohn dalaheys howsse that day that wee pwynted oure bannar shullde bee	iij d.
Item payde for makynge of oure banner	ij s. viij d.
It*em* payde the menstrel*es* on mydsomer even	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* payde the same nyghte for a quarte of whyte wyne	iiij d.
It*em* geven hym that Rode & carreed the bannar a payre of gloves & a payre of pompes	xij d.
Item to wyllyam Rycharson at the barres	j d.

...

f 63v

...

It*em* geven the presoner*es* on mydsomer even	iiij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

ff [47–8] *(18 October–18 October)*

®°Whitson plays went this yeare 1572 and mesomer show also *per* accounts°

It*em* for our horssces at the Rydyng of the banes	xvi d.
It*em* for papare	i d.
It*em* for ryddyng the banes	i d.

10/ thursse day after guttedes day: *21 February 1571/2* 38–42m/ Whitson ... accounts: *in RH II's hand*

I*tem* for the reste of a shoute at the fyrste rehersce	vi d.
I*tem* spende on the iiij syngarse at rondylle ynces	ij d.
I*tem* for xiiij yerthen moges	iij s.
I*tem* spende at Tomas Lyncarsse for the baryage of the cariage	vi d.
I*tem* pede to doosse wyfe to yarneste the hagoosscys	xij d.
I*tem* spentte in Wyllam dones	iiij d.
I*tem* spette in Tomas Lynecars	i d.
I*tem* spentte in Rychart twyssces spekynge for the asse	i d.
I*tem* before the generall reherce in Robart halewodes	vi d.
I*tem* lede done goinge to loke for skynnes	ij d.
I*tem* lede done at the generaulle rehersce denar	vj s.
I*tem* payde to Rogare Colarke for ij yarne stabylles	iij d.
I*tem* payde for iiij wyestlles	ij d.
I*tem* payde at the hyrynge of the caryages	i d.
I*tem* payde for ij chessces	v d.
I*tem* for a gambone a bacone & iiij fytte	vi d.
I*tem* for ij gannokes from Waryntone	ij d.
I*tem* spente goynge to borow bogyttes	ij d.
I*tem* for a besstes tonge & iiij colfes fytte	viij d.
I*tem* for bouttare	viij d. |
I*tem* for a houlle	iiij d.
I*tem* payde to doosses wyffe for lethes & leuarse	xij d.
I*tem* payde ⌜for⌝ gettyng wedes	ij d.
I*tem* spend at gettynge cattes an bottylse	iiij d.
I*tem* payde for a topes yede	iij d.
I*tem* for nelles corde pynes pynttes & paketryde	ix d.
I*tem* for the as lede doune	xij d.
I*tem* for pentynge the houke & ass the styltes and the stare	xij d.
I*tem* for crabes	i d.
I*tem* for a lawne a velle	vi d.
I*tem* for a tryne platar	iij d.
I*tem* to viij pottarres of the caryages	ij s. x d.
I*tem* to petar a moston for troues shone makyng & for hys penes an labore	xvi d.
I*tem* for bayre that Rochart doby hade	i d.
I*tem* for payntes to bone the pleares	ij d.
I*tem* payde to the mynstryles	ij s.
I*tem* for ij wystyles for trowe	ij d.
I*tem* for the brekefast to the plears & pottares of the caryags	v s. viij d.
I*tem* for brede & bear to the plle	x d.
I*tem* to master brearwood for hortyng of skyngnes	vj d.

7/ spette: *for* spentte

I*tem* payde to Robart radeborne	xij d. |
I*tem* payde to dosse wyfe for hagocyes	vj s. viij d.
I*tem* payd to the shepp*ertes* Boyees	iiij s.
I*tem* to Roger Calcotte for a Ierne to the caryge	ij d.
I*tem* a skynne to trowes shewes	vj d.
I*tem* to trowes boye	vj d.
I*tem* to *our* lady	vj d.
I*tem* to Iohan casker for a lord	iij d.
I*tem* a pott of beare	j d.
I*tem* payd for the caryge	v s. iiij d.
I*tem* for harvyes wages	xx d.
I*tem* for tuddes wag*es*	xx d.
I*tem* for Trowes wag*es*	ij s.
I*tem* for the wag*es* of the [⟨…⟩] ⌜angell⌝	[⟨…⟩ d.] vj d.
I*tem* for Rydyng the orygenall	xij d.
I*tem* for drynke to the players	iiij d.
I*tem* for a payer of lether gartere*s*	vj d.
I*tem* for a shype hoke	vj d.
I*tem* for goyng vppon the stylt*es* at Rydyng the banes	vj d.
I*tem* for a nother payer of Sewes for trowe	xvj d.

[9 li. iij s. ⟨.⟩ d.]

3 li. 3 s. 2 d.

…

f [48v]

More layd out by the stewert*es* for the charg*es* of the whole yeare 1572 [⟨…⟩]

…

I*tem* for Ale in wyllyams fronwayes on mydsamer euyn before the wache wentte	iiij d.
I*tem* to the prysoners	ij d.
I*tem* for our mynstrell*es*	xij d.
I*tem* for the Rest of A shott at Robert wayt*es*	iij d.

…

I*tem* to the wayteme*n*	iiij d.

…

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054

f 19v *(1 July 1571–6 July 1572)*

…

ffor the Banes

for dressinge our huddes xiiij d. for gloues same day x d.

to the Cryor j d. for horsbred same day xij d.
Spent at our Al*dermans* same day xiiij d. at May kynnes ij d.
when I went to borrowe a [toule] touyle iij d.
for the playes
layd downe about seekinge our players xvj d.
for p*ar*chment to make a new orriginall booke 3 s. 6 d.
for beefe for our gen*rall* rehearse 7 s. 8 d. 2 cheeses 3 s. 6 Cart clouts & nayles vij d.
for nayles to nayle the bords of the Carrage 4 d. for 2 stays for Carrage ij d.
for Tallow for wheles ij d. pinns for the Axtrees ij d.
hoope wheat ij s. bred same day 10 d.
at first reherse 22 d. at second rehearse ij s. ij d.
when we went to m*aste*r Maiors about the plays vij d.
for Ale to our genrall rehearse x s. beare ix d. for spices for the meates 4 d.
to the waytes & our musysyens xij d. to mynstrells vj d.
for dressinge the fane & diadem xviij d.
for ynckill pynns & nayles to our Carriage
for a rybben for our scotchen iij d. for gloues iij s. ij d.
for dressinge our Carriage & after our play spent at our Al*dermans* ij s. 4 d.
to the minstrells for our pagent 3 s. 4 d. for sope to wash clothes x d.
for small beare in bridgstreet iiij d.
The names of the Players. Symion. Dame Anne. 2 Angells xij d.
Ioseph. Mary xviij d. Deus xvj d. primus docter xvj d. 2 docter 3 docter
for the clergy for the songes 4 s. 2 d. for breckfast on Twesday morning 8 s.
gildinge of litle gods face viij d., porters for Carriage xviij d. to the clarke for lone of a Cope an Altercloth & Tunecle x d. for redinge the orrignall book ij d. to the skynners iij s. for bringinge of the Carriag home & Spent on mynstrells & porters 4 d.

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 26/8
f [1] *(28 December) (Examination of Thomas Mon⟨...⟩)*

Beynge ex*amin*ed from whence he cam saith from hynyngam Castle beyonde london from whens he cam before allhalloutide last past to this Citie him self alone and hither Came the Thursday next after the said ffeast to Iohn Bestes howse/ and there lodged/ and synce hath Lodged at the howse of Thomas maykyns shomaker/ and saieth he hath wrought w*i*th one Rauffe Peres a wever/ and asked for what entent he Came to this Cittie sayethe of Sett purpose to have passed into the Realme of Ireland to visitt a brother he hadd there/ and when he Came to this Cittie he hadd vnderstandinge that

14/ beare ix d.: *underlined*

35/ Thursday ... ffeast: *8 November 1571* his brother was dead and then was mynded to Returne home Agayne And beinge demaunded what Acqu*a*intaunce he had w*i*th the woman w*hi*ch had her purse Cutt yesterday night saieth he never had any Acqu*a*intaunce w*i*th her nor knew [not] any suche/ And demaunded whether he then hadd any knyffe/ sayeth he hadd none/ And asked whether he [then hadd any knyffe] made any haste or shifte to go into m*aste*r maiors house at the said tyme of the maske sayeth hee didd/ And Asked what word*es* he spake at m*aste*r maiors dore sayeth he sayed to one Boulton/ he wold go into the house to see A Ryall wonne or Loste And spake non*e* o⟨.⟩her word*es* And demaunded what Acqu*a*intaunce he hath w*i*th one wright now Dwellinge in Ane howse in the forgatestreet wherein one franckly Lately dwelled saieth he was Acquainted w*i*th hym thre yeres synce when he was in the Lord burgeynys s*er*uice/ and [as he] ‸⌜sayeth⌝ synce he Came to this Cittie the said wright Came to the said Rauffe Peres howse and ⟨...⟩ A Londoner And so [fell the] ‸[⌜then happen ⟨...⟩⌝] [together] then/ hop⟨...⟩ Acquaintaunce

Letterbook of Christopher Goodman DRO: DD/PP/839
pp 119–22* *(10 May) (Letter of Christopher Goodman to the earl of Huntingdon)*

...

To the Lord President the Earl of Huntingdon.

Right honourable. Our duties most humbly remembred. May it please your L*ordship* Whereas certain plays were devised by a monk about 200 years past in the depth of ignorance, & by the Pope then authorized to be set forth, & by that authority placed in the city of Chester to the intent to retain that place in assured ignorance & superstition according to the Popish policy. against which plays all preachers & godly men since the time of the blessed light of the gospell have inveyed & impugned as well in Sermons as otherwise when occasion hath served, which notwithstanding, our Mayor of this city joyning himself with such persons as be thought of corrupt affection in religion doth with great practise endeavour to cause them to be played here this next Whitsontide, albeit the same have neither been perused nor allowed according as by her Ma*jes*ty in those cases it is provided. Wherefore & forsomuch as your L*ordship* being placed in chiefest autority under her M*ajesty* amongst us, & also a man whom we greatly reverence as well in respect of your Zeal to godliness as of your carefull diligence in purveying to remove ill occasions towards her M*ajesty* & the Common weal, We have thought it answerable to our duties towards her M*ajesty* to advertize your L*ordship* of the State of the cause which carrieth in it self no manner of good, but the contrary, as shall appear to your L*ordship* by a note sent by our Preachers to the Mayor, but also giveth great comfort to the rebellious papist, & some greater occasions of assembling & conference than their intentions well considered is at this

Mem*orandum* in Iune 1578 another letter was written to the L*ord* President, upon the same account, subscribed by Mr. Goodman, Mr. Lane, & Mr. Rogerson.

present meet to be admitted: The consideration whereof we referr to your Honourable wisdom knowing very well that your L*ordship* will leave nothing undone which shall be found convenient for the repressing of Papacy, & advancing of godliness, & avoiding of all occasions whereby either perill or danger to her M*ajesty* or the common weal might begin or grow. And having sent this bearer with some farther instructions, We beseeching almighty god to prosper your Honourable Estate do most humbly take leave at Chester the x of May . 1572

(15 May) (Letter of the archbishop of York to the mayor of Chester)

A copy of the Archb*ishop's* Letter to M*aste*r Mayor concerning
the stay of Whitson plays.

After our hearty commendations. Whereas we understand that you intend and purpose shortly to set forth a play commonly called the usuall plays of Chester wherein as we | wherein as we are credibly informed are contained sundry absurd & gross errours & heresies joyned with profanation & great abuse of god's holy word. We have therefore thought good to will & require you & ‸⌜in⌝ the Queen's Majesty's name by vertue of her Highnesses Commission for causes Ecclesiasticall within the province of York to us & others directed straitly to charge & command you forthwith upon the sight hereof to surcease from further preparation for setting forth the said plays, & utterly to forbear the playing thereof for this Summer & for all times hereafter till your said plays shall be perused corrected & reformed by such learned men as by us shall be thereunto appointed & the same so reformed by us allowed, & till signification of our such allowance be given to you in writing under the hands of us or other our Associates the Queen's Majesty's said commissioners. Thus requiring you not to fail in the premises as you will answer the contrary at your perills, We bid you farewell. From Westminster this 15th day of May. 1572

Your friends
York
Elie
Chester

(11 June) (Letter of Christopher Goodman, Robert Rogerson, and John Lane to the archbishop of York)

To the Archb*ishop* of York

My humble duty considered. it may please your G*race* to understand that upon the receipt of your & my Lord Presidents letters I delivered them forthwith to my L*ord* of Chester & our Mayor upon wenesday last. My Lord said

15/ wherein as we: *catchwords*
40/ wenesday last: *4 June 1572*

he perceived M*aste*r Mayor so bent as he would not be stayed from his determination in setting forth the plays by any persuasions or letters, & for his own part he had & would earnestly deal with him again. but it is thought otherways by the common voice of many. The Mayor said to me that he would take a time to consider of them & then after answer your H.H. himself. But still he proceedeth in his determinate purpose minding to assay all his friends for performance of the same, & to that effect (as it is reported) hath directed his letters & sent to some of the council above & one to my L*ord* of Derby chief of her Ma*jes*ties commission for Cheshire & Lancashire, whereof also his Worship is one, & by vertue of the same freed from y*o*ur G*race's* Commission, so as without contempt he is persuaded by his counsel that he may lawfully disobey the same. But I trust as her Ma*jes*ty is all one, so are her commissions not as meant one to be against another. Nevertheless I trust your wisdoms know how to meet with such fine devices for the defence of an evill cause. Surely my L*ord* as the president is great & worthy of due consideration, so maketh it a great stirr in this City which before was quiet, wounding the hearts of all that unfeignedly favour the gospell, sharply assaulting the publick peace amongst us by making of parties as it hath done always when the said plays have been attempted, whilest many for fear of displeasure are constrained to give their consent, others that make any resistance threatned, though they allegde never so good reasons for themselves: so as the adversaries of religion are hereby boldened & triumph with many undecent words against those that yield not to their folly. What fearfull & lamentable signs of god's heavy displeasure hath been seen & felt in this City of late since this unhappy broil hath begun about these wicked plays I referr to the bearer: such as if there were that fear of his Majesty, that care of the publick state, that regard of our duties & love towards our brethren as ought to be in Christians, we should rather prepare us to humble our hearts with true repentance earnest prayers & fasting, than to attend upon vanities, to solace our selves with | our selves with feasting, infecting of friends & strangers with vain & superstitious plays . God be mercifull unto us & turn our hearts in time. But to trouble your G*race* no further, my humble request with my brethren & fellow ministers of this City, who now are present to joyn with me in the same, is unto your G*race* & your council, that in the name of the Lord Iesus your wisdoms may take such order with the said plays, as by your authority they may either be corrected, allowed, & authorized (if god by any such indirect means will have his gospell furthered where ordinary preaching wanteth not) or els by the same your authority utterly defaced & abolished for ever as pastimes unfitt for this time & Christian commonwealths. And to that effect We have according to your G*race's* request sent herewithall the notes of such absurdities as are truly collected out of their old originall, by

30/ our selves with: *catchwords*

the which your wisdoms may easily [understand] judge of the rest. For albeit divers have gone about the correction of the same at sundry times & mended divers things, yet hath it not been done by such as are by authority allowed, nor the same their corrections viewed & approved according to order, nor yet so played for the most part as they have been corrected. Thus committing the cause (which is god's) to your godly wisdoms hoping for such order herein to be taken by the same as god may have his glory, the gospell & preachers more obedience & credit, & this poor city more peace, & your authority better obeyed, We committ your G*race* to the protection of the Almighty. From Chester

This second letter to my L*ord* of York written
the xith of Iune & sent the day after by R. L.
Christopher Goodman
Mr. Robert Rogerson
Mr. Iohn Lane

(Letter of Christopher Goodman and Robert Rogerson to the archbishop of York)

To the most godly & reverend father Edmond Archbishop of York

Right reverend in Christ. May it please your grace, having heretofore according to our duty signified to your G*race* the determination of those which minded the old Popish plays of Chester to be sett forth this Whitsontide past, which was contemptuously accomplished notwithstanding your G*race's* inhibition to the contrary to the encouragement of evill men & to the offence of the best sort as well in the said City as els where: And for as much as we well consider that your G*race* cannot let pass so foul a fact without examination & correction, as the same in justice doeth deserve; We are moved yet once again to put your G*race* in remembrance hereof, & that so much the rather as since that time divers honest men (who have misliked of the said plays) & lothe to withstand your G*race's* commands to the contrary have been called & willed by the Mayor to contribute thereunto, & certain for not paying (according to their conscience & your G*race's* commandment) have been to their grief & discredit imprisoned. Whereby your G*race* may in part understand with what disposition the same have been so earnestly prosecuted, even in contempt of God & Authority, & to the great hindrance of the increase of the little seed of the gospell here by the travell of divers well disposed well planted. And albeit they (to cloak their doings) shall alledge that many of the foresaid plays are corrected: yet we are sure that the most part remain as before, & the rest so corrected not much bettered, nor yet examined & allowed according to order. Thus committing your G*race* to the tuition of the Almighty we make an end. From Chester the *(blank)* day of *(blank)* 1572

Mem*orandum* in Iune. 1578. Another letter was sent to Edwyn Archb*ishop* of York subscribed by Mr. Goodman Mr. Lane & Mr. Rogerson to the same effect as these.

Your G*race's* to command in Christ
Christopher Goodman
Robert Rogerson. |

Notes of the absurdities &c in the Chester plays.

Pag. 4. Abraham ex merito should receive a son.
5. The Ark called a Shrine
7 Ioseph chargeth his wife with open words, contrary to the Scriptures.
Also he reprehendeth marriage betwixt a young person & an old.
8 Sybill is brought in so superstitious a manner as is not commendable.
Ioseph grudgeth against tribute paying.
Two midwives to Christ Tibill & Salome.
The miracle of drying up of Salomes hands & the restoring of the same,
And feigned miracles of Frier Bartholomew, of the temple by necromancy.
Of 3 Suns appearing.
Of the ox & the ass honouring of Christ
Sybill & Octavian talking together
Octavian saw a maid with a child in her arms in a starr with a bright X in his head.
Octavian honoured him with *(blank)* & sensed the starr.
9 The unreverent speaking of the shepherds who by the Scriptures seem to be honest men
The foolish descanting of the Shepherds upon Gloria in excelsis
The angels suspected of the Shepherds to be sheep-stealers. with a lewd merry song.
Their kissing of the cratch & clothes.
Their vain offerings to move laughter & to maintain Superstition.
They forsake their vocation, not mentioned in Scripture
Some of the shepherds to have been an Anchorate or Eremite &c.
10 The kings honour the virgin in place of Christ, & yet no mention of kings
The souldiers of Herod use terms of neighbour princes not not....
11 Simeon to doubt of a virgin's birth & to put out the name of a maid twice out of his book writing in place thereof a good woman.
Ioseph offereth a taper of wax.
12 The Iews swear by Mahound. 13. God made the Mass. 14. The sacrament made ‸⌈a stage play.⌉
16 A fable of Seth begging oyl in paradise to anoint Adam when he was sick.
The deliverance of Adam &c out of hell & bringing these words to affirm his purpose Attollite portas.
Enoch & Elias living in paradise in the flesh & the abiding there for a time.
Michael bringing the fathers out of hell with the cross hanging upon the theef's back.

27/ not not: *dittography*
27/ ....: *ellipsis in* MS
36/ Attollite portas: *Psalm 23.7 and 9 (Vlg)*

17 The words. And therto a full ryche messe, in bred myn one bodie, & that bred I you gyve, your wyked lyffe to amend, becomen is my fleshe, throgh wordes 5 betwyxt the prestes handes.
18 Thomas sweareth by god omnipotent.
19 Christ promiseth blyss for good works.
20 Peter onely is said to create Matthias an Apostle
The Angell bringeth the Holy ghost to the Apostles
The Creed made in 12 Articles by 12 Apostles every one their portion.
Matthews words these. And I believe throgh godes grace soche beleffe as holy church has that godes bodie granted us was & to use in forme of bred.
Simons words. And I beleve with devotion, of syn to have remission, throgh penance & contrition, & heven whan I am dead.
21 The exposition of Malachy's prophecy concerning Enoch & Elias approving a religious life.
Also the exposition of Iohn's revelation that Enoch & Elias are in paradise in the flesh.
The coming of Antichrist with turning of trees upwards.
The 15 signs of the last day
22 Antichrist to die & rise again
Enoch & Elias talk with Antichrist, & Elias blessing bread with the sign of the Cross.
Michael killeth Antichrist.
23 Purgatory affirmed, preaching of merits of man.
The divell speaking Latin, & setteth forth invocation of Saints.

1572–3

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
ff [4v–5] *(20 November–20 November)*

. . .	
It*em* payde ffor the armes and arsedo*n* the bereghe to the makynge off yt	iiij s. vj d.
. . .	
more gaue ij peneworthe off horsebred to mr ffransus one medsomer euen	ij d. |
It*em* spende one medso*m*mer ewen one the companye in Iohn stynson	iiij s.
more in sake	xij d.
It*em* a payre off gloues to the chylde that caryed the armes and a bowe	vj d.
more ffor the staffe off the armes	iiij d.
. . .	

It*em* spende on the menstrelles at Iohn Ioanson maryge	iiij d.

…

It*em* spende one the company in Rychard layes dener ffor seke	vj d.
more to the wettmen	vj d.
It*em* payde to the presoneres in the castyll and in the norgatt	iiij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 63v *(11 November 1571–11 November 1572) (Expenses)*

…

Item geven the mynstrell*es* on martens even	xx d.

…

f 64* *(11 November 1572–11 November 1573)*

…

In primis payde the menstrell*es* in oure alderman lays on martens [even daye] ‸⌈daye⌉	ij s.

…

Item payde for the gleves at gutted	iij s. iiij d.
Item payde the mynstrell*es* in oure stewarte Inces on thursday aftr gutted	viij d.
Item payde the ⌈stewart*es* of⌉ Iornemen for there paynes the iij days	iiij d.
Item payde the same day in oure stewarte Inc*es*	xvj d.

…

It*em* payde the mynstrell*es* on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
It*em* spente on the menstrell*es* in dave dymmock*es*	ij d.
It*em* payde the crier at the barres	j d.
It*em* geven the presoner*es* on mydsomer even	iiij d.
It*em* spente in oure allderman cook*es* howsse before the wacche	vj d.
It*em* payde the chylde that Rode for hys paynes	xij d.
It*em* payde for a payre of gloves for hym	j d.
It*em* geven hys fote man for ledynge hys horsse	iiij d.
It*em* geven the presoner*es* in the northegate on mydsomer even	ij d.
It*em* payde for horsse bredd	iiij d.

…

19/ gutted: *2 February 1572/3*
21/ thursday aftr gutted: *5 February 1572/3*

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [51]* *(18 October–18 October)*

°midsomer show only no whison plays°

…

°1573° payd for ij pott*es* of Ale att Thomas barkers vppon mydssomer euen	ij d.
It*em* to wyllyam Ry*chard*son at the barres	j d.
It*em* to the prysoners at the castell	ij d.
It*em* to the prysoners at the northgate	j d.
It*em* to the mynstrell*es*	xij d.
It*em* sspente at our Aldermans	xviij d.
It*em* ffor horssebread to the horsse that the boye Rode vppon	ij d.
It*em* payd to Ry*chard* dobe for going vppon the stylt*es*	vj d.
…	
It*em* to Edward dobe for goyng vppon the styltes at mydsomer	[ij d.]
…	

AC ### *Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2054
f 20 *(6 July–1 July)*

…

to the waytemen at our Ald*er*m*ans* howse vj d.

…

giuen on that brought vs gere for the child that ridd on midsomer euen vj d.
for our signe ij s. 4 d.
other ordnary expences as at other tymes *(blank)*

…

1573–4
Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 148 *(20 July)* *(Watergate Street)*

…

The Caryadg howse for the Mercers now conu*er*ted to A Stable w*hi*ch was graunted to mr moris williamz and now the stewarde*s* hath it the yerely Rent	vj d.
The Stewarde*s* of the drap*er*s for their caryadg howse in rerage*s* for viij yeres Rent/ of the yerely Rent of	viij d.
…	

5/ midsomer … plays: *in RH II's hand*   7m/ 1573: *in RH II's hand*

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 21

f 65* *(29 June)*

…

Ioh*ann*es Rowley

M*emorandum* q*uo*d d*ic*tis die et Anno Ioh*ann*es Rowley de Ciu*ita*te Cestr*ie* Tinker et Agnet*a* vxor eius vener*unt* in proprijs p*er*sonis suis cora*m* Ric*ardo* Dutton Ar*migero* maior*e* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* et recogno*uerunt* sese et quemlib*et* eor*um* p*er* se debere d*ic*te d*omin*e Regine Quinq*ue* libr*as* legal*is* monet*e* ang*lie* Soluend*as* &c. Et nisi &c.

The condic*i*on of this recognizaunc*e* is such That if thaboue bounden Iohn Rowley and Agnes his wief (she being a musion) w*i*thin the space of two daies next com*m*ing doe depart out of the Citie of Chester and at no tyme hereafter doe continue or remaine in the said Citie the liberties or ffraunches thereof aboue two daies at eny tyme of their or either of their repaier or being w*i*thin the said Citie And also if the said Iohn Rowley and Agnes from tyme to tyme and at all tyme and tymes hereaft*er* during all such tyme as they or eith*er* of them shall make their abode be or remaine w*i*thin the said Citie be of good and honest behavi*or* as becometh honeste Civill p*er*sons to vse and behaue them selues That then this p*re*sent Recogni*saunce* to be void or ell*es* it to stande be and remaine in full power force & vertue

f 107v *(4 October)*

comp*aruit* et Relax*atus* per maior*em*

mi*cha*elis S*anc*ti &c

M*anucaptio* Edm*u*ndi Cally de Ciui*ta*te Cestr*ie* musicion de pace ferend*a* erga Cunctu*m* Populu*m* d*om*ine Regine et p*re*cipue erga Launcellottu*m* Bostock Ar*migerum*, Will*elmu*m Edward*es*, Hugo*n*em Biston Rog*er*um Downes et Ioh*ann*em done gen*erosos* vsq*ue* prox*imam* Cur*iam* Portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* ib*ide*m prox*ime* tenend*am* comp*ar*uit et deliberat*ur* vlt*er*ius de pace ferend*a* erga Cunctu*m* popul*um* d*omi*ne Regine et p*re*cipue erga p*re*fatum Launcellott*u*m Bostock will*elmu*m Edward*es*, hugo*n*em Biston Rog*er*um Downes et Ioh*ann*em Done vsq*ue* proxim*am* Cur*iam* Portmot*i* Ciui*tat*is p*re*dict*e* ib*ide*m prox*ime* tenend*am* post ffes*t*um S*anc*ti mich*ael*is Arch*angel*i prox*imum* futur*um* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena ducent*i* lib*rarum* p*er* p*er*icu*l*lum Thome Browne de [ff⟨..⟩] Saltneyside Rob*er*ti harvy, Ioh*ann*is horton et Ioh*ann*is danold. Proviso semp*er* q*uo*d si p*re*d*ic*tus Edm*u*ndus Cally non fu*er*it infra libertat*es* Ciui*tatis* Cestr*ie* p*re*d*icte* Ad p*re*fat*am* prox*imam* Cur*iam* post dict*um* fest*um* S*anc*ti mich*ael*is Arch*angel*i prox*imum* q*uo*d tunc ad comp*ar*end*um* ad p*ro*x*imam* Cur*iam* Portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* ib*ide*m p*ro*x*ime* tenend*am* extunc post adventu*m* ips*i*us Edm*u*ndi Cally infra liberta*tes* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* et

11/ musion: *for* musicion

29/ Cunctum: *3 minims for* un *in* MS

abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena p*redictarum* CC li. p*er* p*er*icull*um* pleg*iorum* suor*um* vltim*orum* p*re*terit*orum* no*m*in*a*t*orum*

f 142v* *(3 May)*

...

Rowley Not t⟨…⟩ also ordered that Ric*hard* Rowley and his wief the mus*i*cion shall both dep*ar*t this Citie of chester w*i*thin the space of iij daies next coming And at no tyme afterward*es* do repaier to the same.

Corporation Lease Book CCALS: ZCHB 3
f 26 *(4 August)*

Nou*er*int vniu*er*si per p*rese*ntes nos. Rob*er*t*u*m Brerewod de Cestr*ia* in Com*itatu* Ciuitat*is* Cestr*ie* glover et will*elmu*m Stiles de ead*em* Ciui*ta*te in Com*itatu* p*redicto* m*er*cer Teneri et firmiter obligari Ric*ard*o Bavand et will*el*mo wall de dict*a* Ciuitat*e* Iremong*eres* Thesurarijs Ciui*tat*is p*re*dict*e* in Centu*m* merc*as* legalis monet*e* Anglie Soluend*as* eisd*em* Thesurarijs vel successorib*us* suis/ Ad quam quid*em* soluc*ion*em bene et fideliter faciend*am* Oblig⟨.⟩mus nos et vtrumq*ue* n*ostrum* per se pro toto et in solid*um*, herede⟨.⟩ executores et Administrat*ores* n*ost*ros et heredes, executor*es* et Administrator*es* vtriusq⟨.⟩ n*ost*rum firmiter p*er* p*rese*ntes Sigillis n*ost*ris Sigillat*as* dat*as* Quart*o* die men*sis* Augusti Anno regni d*omi*ne Elizab*ethe* dei g*rati*a Anglie ffrauncie et hib*erni*e Regine fidei defensor*is* &c decimo sexto.

T. The Condic*i*on of this obligac*i*on is such That where Richard dutton esquir⟨.⟩ Maior of the Citie of Chester and the Comynalty of the same Citie by theire indenture of lease w*i*th one assent and consent, beringe date with these p*rese*nt*es* haue deuised graunted and to ferme betaken vnto the w*i*thin bounden Rob*er*t Brerewodd and will*ia*m Stiles and their Assignes for Terme of Thirtie one yeres from the ffeaste daie of the Purificac*i*on of our ladie mary the virgen next ensuinge the daie of the date hereof, All that their Clausure and p*ar*cell of grounde called the Roode Eie within the liberties of the said Citie lyinge/ for the yerelie Rent of Tenne Poundes As by the said indenture of leas thereof made more plainly App*ear*eth/ Yf the said Rob*er*t Brerewodd and will*ia*m Stiles nor either of them their nor eith⟨..⟩ of their executors admynystrator*es* or Assignes at any tyme of tymes duringe the said Terme nor w*i*thin the same, doe not Eare, till, Plow nor Sowe the said clausure nor any p*ar*te or p*ar*cell thereof nor cause the same to be Tilled nor plowed nor any p*ar*te or p*ar*cell thereof And alsoe if the said rob*er*t Brerewodd and will*ia*m Stiles and either of them their and either of their executors Admynystrators and Assignes and eu*ery* of them from tyme to tyme and at all and eu*ery* tyme and tymes hereafter duringe the said Terme, do p*er*mitt and suffer all and all man*ner* of Games, pastymes playes and pleasures vpon the said Clausure

6/ Ric*hard*: *for* Iohn

and p*ar*cell of grounde as heretofore at any tyme haue ben vsed p*er*mitted, suffered or had And in such free and liberall man*ner* and sorte And all man*ner* of p*er*son and p*er*sons their horses gelding*es* and mares to passe walke goe and Run vpon the said Clausure and eu*ery* p*ar*te and p*ar*cell thereof at such lefull tymes and in such man*er* and lefull order and sorte As the same heretofo⟨..⟩ haue ben vsed p*er*mitted and dou*n*/ w*i*thout the lett, suite and disturbaunce of the said Rob*er*t Brerewood and W*illia*m Stiles and either of them their and either of their executor*es* Admynystrator*es* and Assignes That then this p*rese*nte obligac*i*on to be voide and of none effect or ell*es* yt to stande and remaine in force and vertue

f 8v* *(10 August)*

fee ferme to Rob*er*t hill of the [Chor] caryadge howse of tailer*es*

Rent ij s. vj d.

Sciant p*res*entes et futur*i* q*uo*d nos Ric*ard*us dutton Armiger maior Ciui*tatis* Cestr*ie* et Co*mmun*itat*is* eiusdem Ciuitatis pro diu*er*sis bonis consideraci*on*ib*us* nos moven*tibus*, Tradidimus, concessimus et hac p*rese*nt*i* carta n*ost*ra indentat*a* ad feodi firma*m* dimisimus vnanimi assensu et concessu pro nob*is* et successorib*us* n*ost*ris, Rob*er*to Hill de dict*a* Ciuitat*e* Taillior, Totum illud edificiu*m* siue domu*m* voc*atum* the Taillor*es* Caryadg house Iacen*tem* et existen*tem* in dict*a* Ciuitat*e* in p*ar*te Austal*i* cuiusd*em* venelle vocat*ur* fflesshmong*er* lane adiacen*tem* ter*ram* voc*atam* wolfes gate aut newgate modo in occupaci*on*e Aldermano*rum* et senescall*orum* Cetus suto*rum* vestia*riorum* infra dict*am* Ciuit*a*tem quod quid*em* Edific*ium* siue structur*am* continen*tem* in longitudine quinq*ue* virgat*as* Regeas et in latitudine ⟨..⟩es virgat*as* et dimid*ium* vnius virgat*e* cu*m* p*er*tinenci*is*/ habend*o* et tenend*o* totu*m* p*re*dict*um* edificiu*m* domu*m* siue structur*am* cu*m* p*er*tinenci*is* p*re*fat*o* Rob*er*t*o* hill heredib*us* et Assignat*is* suis imp*er*pet*uu*m Reddendo inde Annuatim ad manus Thesurario*rum* Ciuit*atis* p*re*dict*e* pro temp*o*r*e* existen*tium* ad vsu*m* Comitat*is* Ciuit*atis* p*re*d*icte* duos solid*os* et sex denarios legal*is* monet*e* Angl*ie* ad fest*a* *Sanct*i Mich*ael*is Arch*angel*i et Annu*n*ciac*i*onis beat*e* Marie virginis equis porc*i*onib*us* soluend*os*, Et si contingat Annualem Redditu*m* p*re*d*ictum* A retro fore non solut*um* in p*ar*te vel in tot*o* per Spaciu*m* quadragint*a* dieru*m* post aliquid fest*orum* p*re*dict*orum* quo solui debeat q*uo*d tunc et deinceps bene liceat et licebit nob*is* p*re*fat*is* Maiori et Co*mmun*itati Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* et Successorib*us* n*ost*ris in p*re*d*ictum* Edific*ium* domu*m* siue structur*am* cu*m* p*er*tinenci*is* reintrar*e* et pristinu*m* n*ost*ru*m* statu*m* inde reassumere ac imp*er*petuu*m* retinere (hac p*rese*nt*i* carta indentat*a* no*n* obstante) Et nos vero p*re*fat*i* Maior et Co*mmun*itas Ciui*tatis* et Successor*es* n*ost*ri tot*um* p*re*dict*um* edificiu*m* domu*m* siue structur*am* cum ^⌈p*er*tinenci*is*⌉ p*re*fat*o* Rob*er*t*o* hill

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17/ concessu: *first* s *corrected over other letter*
20/ Austal*i*: *for* Australi
24/ ⟨..⟩es: *for* tres
28/ Comitat*is*: *for* Co*mmun*itat*is*; *abbreviation mark missing*

heredib*us* et Assignat*is* suis p*ro* Reddit*u* pred*icto* et sub p*r*ouiso sup*radict*o contra o*mn*es gentes warran*tabimus* et imp*er*petuu*m* p*er* p*re*sente*s* defendemus/ Ac insup*er* sciat*is* nos p*re*fat*os* Maiorem et Co*mmun*itatem eiusdem Ciuit*atis* attornasse, fecisse et in loc*is* n*ost*ris posuisse dil*ectu*m in chr*ist*o Thoma*m* Thropp *servientem* ad clauas Ci*uitatis* pred*icte* nos*tr*um veru*m* et legittim*um* attur*natu*m ad intrand*um* p*ro* nob*is* vice et no*mini*b*us* n*ost*ris in p*re*d*ictum* edifici*u*m domu*m* siue structur*am* cu*m* p*er*tin*enciis* et possessionemq*ue* Seis*in*am inde capiend*as* et post huiusmod*i* possess*ionem*q*ue* Seis*in*am sic inde Capt*as* et h*abit*as ad deliberand*um* p*re*fat*o* Rob*ert*o hill aut eius in hac p*ar*te c*ertum* attur*nato* sec〈...〉 vim forma*m* et effect*um* huius p*re*sentis carte n*ost*re indentat*e* inde ei confect〈..〉 In cuius Rei Testimoniu*m* vni p*ar*ti huius Carte penes p*re*fat*am* Rob*ert*um hill remañ*enti* p*re*fat*i* Maior et Co*mmun*itas Sigillu*m* Co*mmun*e Ci*uitatis* p*re*dic*te* apponi fecimus Alt*er*i vero parti eiusdem Cart*e* penes Co*mmun*itat*em* Ciuitat*is* p*re*dict*e* reman*enti* p*re*fat*us* Rob*er*tus Hill Sigillu*m* suu*m* apposuit dat*um* decimo die Augusti Anno Regni d*omi*ne Elizabeth dei gra*cia* Angl*ie* ffraunc*ie* et hib*ernie* Regine fidei defensor*is* &c decimo sexto

f 17 *(23 August)*

Nich*olaus* white
Rent iij s. iiij d.

Sciant presentes et futuri q*uo*d nos Ric*ard*us dutto Armiger Maior Ciuit*atis* Cestr*ie* Cives et Co*mmun*itas eiusdem Ciuit*atis* p*ro* diu*er*sis bonis causis et considera*ci*onib*us* n〈..〉 ad presens movent*ibus* vnanimi assensu et pari voluntate pro nobis et successor*ibus* n*ost*ris, Tradidimus, concessim*us* et hac p*re*sent*i* Carta n*ost*ra indentat*a* dimisim*us* Nich*ola*o white de dict*a* Ciuit*at*e Cestr*ie* m*er*catori. totam illam n*ost*ram vacua*m* place〈..〉 siue p*ar*cella*m* terr*e* n*ost*re modo in occupa*ci*o*ne* ips*ius* nich*ola*i white iacent*em* et existen*tem* in d*ic*ta Ciuit*at*e Cestr*ie* in quadam venell*a* ib*ide*m voc*ata* Grey ffrier lane prope quend*am* Muru*m* lapidiu*m* voc*atum* Grey ffrier wall ex parte Occidental*i* et inter regia*m* via*m* illa*m* voc*atam* white frier lane ex p*ar*te oriental*i* et quoddam Edificiu*m* voc*atum* le drap*er*s Cariadge howse ex p*ar*te Austral*i* et quand*am* domu*m* modo in occupa*ci*o*ne* cuiusd*e*m Ranu*lphi* Griff*in* ex p*ar*te Borial*i* continen*tem* in longitudine quinq*ue* virgat*as* regeas e〈.〉 in Latitudine quatuor virgat*as*·Regeas et dimid*ium* vnius virgat*e* cu*m* o*mni*b*us* et sing*u*lis edificijs et structur*is* sup*er*inde edificat*is* vel edificand*is* cu*m* p*er*tinenc*iis* suis h*ab*endo tenend*o* et gaudend*o* tota*m* p*re*d*ictam* placeam siue p*ar*cella*m* terr*e* edific〈..〉 et structur*as* cu*m* p*er*tin*enciis* p*re*fato Nich*ola*o white heredibus et Assignat*is* suis imp*er*pe*tu*um, Reddendo inde Annuatim nob*is* p*re*fat*is* Maiori Civib*us* et Co*mmun*itat*i* e〈.〉 Successorib*us* n*ost*ris ad vsum eiusd*em* Co*mmun*itatis ad manus Thesurario*rum* Ciuit*atis* p*re*d*icte* tempore

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7–8, 8/ possessionemq*ue* Seis*in*am, possess*ionem*q*ue* Seis*in*am: *for* possessionem Seisinamque

10/ sec〈...〉: *letters lost in gutter; probably* secundum

20/ dutto: *for* dutton*; abbreviation mark omitted*

33/ Latitudine: *second* t *written over* d existen*tium* tres solid*os* et quatuor denarios legal*is* monet*e* Angl*ie* ad fest*a* *Sanct*i mich*ael*is Arch*angel*i et Annu*n*ciac*ion*is beat*e* marie virginis equis porc*ion*ib*us* soluend*os* Et si contingat Anualem Reddit*u*m p*re*d*ictum* Aretro fore non solut*um* in p*ar*te vel in tot*o* p*er* spaciu*m* Quadragint*a* dier*um* post aliquod fest*orum* p*re*d*ictorum* quo solui debeat (hoc debit*o* modo petit*o*) q*uo*d tunc bene Liceat nobis p*re*fat*is* Maiori Civib*us* et Co*mmun*itat⟨.⟩ et Successorib*us* n*ost*ris in p*re*d*ictam* placea*m* siue p*ar*cell*a*m terr*e* ac cetera p*re*miss*a* cu*m* p*er*t*inenciis* reintrare ac pristi*num* n*ost*r*u*m statu*m* reassumere inde et imp*er*p*et*uum retinere (hac present*i* carta n*ost*ra indentat*a* non obstant*e*) Et nos vero p*re*fat*i* Maior Cives et Co*mmun*itas Ciui*tat*is p*re*d*icte* ac Successores n*ost*ri, tota*m* illa*m* p*re*d*ictam* placea*m* siue p*ar*cella*m* terr*e* ac cet*er*a o*mn*ia p*re*miss*a* cu*m* p*er*tin*enciis* suis, p*re*fato Nich*ola*o white heredib*us* et Assignat*is* suis p*ro* Reddit*u* p*re*d*icto* et modo et forma p*re*d*ictis* contra o*mn*es gentes warran*tabimus* et imp*er*p*et*uum p*er* p*re*sentes defendemus Ac insup*er* sciat*is* nos p*re*fat*os* maiorem, Civem et Co*mmun*itatem Ciui*tat*is p*re*dict*e* attornasse, fecisse et in loc*is* n*ost*ris posuisse dil*ectu*m nobis in Chr*ist*o Ioh⟨...⟩ Shaw de dict*a* Ciui*ta*te yeoman n*ost*r*u*m veru*m* et l*egittim*um Attor*natu*m ad intrand*um* p*ro* nob*is* vi⟨..⟩ et no*minibus* n*ost*ris in p*re*d*ictam* plac*eam* siue p*ar*cell*am* terr*e* et ceter*a* p*re*miss*a* cum p*er*tin*enciis* et possessione⟨...⟩ Sei*si*nam inde capiend*as* et post huiusmod*i* possessionemq*ue* sei*sin*am sic inde capt*as* et h*abi*tas ad deliberand*um* p*re*fato Nich*ola*o white aut eius in hac p*ar*te cert*o* Attur*natu*m *secun*dum vim forma*m* et effect*um* huius p*re*sent*is* Cart*e* n*ost*re inde ei confect*e* Rat*um* et gra⟨...⟩ h*ab*ent*e* et h*ab*itur*o* tot*um* et quicquid d*ict*us Attur*natu*m n*ost*ri no*mini*b*us* n*ost*ris fecerit vel fieri p*ro*curau*er*it in deliberac*ionem* Sei*si*n*e* p*re*d*icte*. In Cuius Rei Testimoniu*m* vni part⟨.⟩ hui*us* p*re*sent*is* n*ost*re indentat*e* penes p*re*fat*um* Nich*olau*m white reman*enti* nos p*re*fat*i* Maior Cives et Co*mmun*itas Sigillu*m* Co*mmun*e Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* Apposuim*us*: Alt*er*i ver*o* p*ar*ti eiusd*em* Carte penes nos p*re*fat*os* Maior*em* Civem et Co*mmun*itat*em* remanen*ti* p*re*fatus Nich*ola*us white sigill⟨..⟩ su*um* Apposuit dat*um* Apud Ciui*ta*tem p*re*d*ictam* vicesimo tercio die mens*is* Augusti Anno Regni d*omi*ne Elizab*ethe* dei gra*cia* Angl*ie* ffrauncie et hib*er*nie Regine fidei defensoris &⟨.⟩ sexto decimo

ff 24v–5 *(15 October)*

Mr Edward
Marten
Rent xij d.

...

Sciant p*re*sentes et futuri Q*uo*d nos Ric*ard*us dutton Armig*er* Maior Ciui*tatis* Cestr*ie*: Cives et Co*mmun*itas eiusd*em* Ciui*tatis* vnanimi assensu et concensu

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15, 29/ Civem: *for* Cives

20/ possessione⟨...⟩ Sei*sin*am: *for* possessionem Seisinamque

20–1/ possessionemq*ue* sei*sin*am: *for* possessionem seisinamque

22/ Attur*natu*m: *for* Atturnato

24/ Attur*natu*m n*ost*ri: *for* Atturnatus noster

28/ Apposuim*us*: *4 minims in* MS

32/ hibernie: *2 minims in* MS

pro nob*is* et successorib*us* n*ost*ris pro diu*ersis* bonis causis et consideraci*oni*b*us* nos ad p*re*sens specialit*er* movent*ibus* Tradidimus concessim*us* et hac p*re*sent*e* Carta n*ost*ra indentat*a* dimisimus Edwardo Marten de dict*a* Ciuitat*e* draper. totam illam vacua*m* placeam siue p*ar*cellam terr*e* n*ost*re Iacent*em* et existent*em* in dict*a* Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* in quadam platea ib*ide*m vocat*a* le watergate street inter plate*am* illam ex p*ar*t*e* Austral*i* et quandam venellam ducent*em* A platea p*redicta* vsqu*e* ad lez Croft*es* ex p*ar*te oriental*i* et quoddam meneu*m* siue Muru*m* lapideu*m* v*ocatum* grey frier wall que quid*e*m placea siue p*ar*cella terr*e* adiacens muro illo et sub muro [l] illo vulgarit*er* nuncupat*a* lez drap*er*s Caryadge howse continen*s* in longitudine vndecem virgat*as* regeas et in latitudine quinq*ue* virgat*as* regeas cu*m* o*mn*ibus domib*us* & structur*is* sup*er*inde edificat*is* vel edificand*is* cu*m* o*mn*ibus et singu*li*⟨.⟩ suis p*er*tin*enciis* vniu*ersis* quibuscu*m*q*ue* Habend*o* et tenend*o* p*redictam* vacua*m* place*am* siue p*ar*cellam terr*e* cu*m* o*mn*ib*us* et singulis domib*us* et structur*is* sup*er*inde edific*atis*⟨..⟩ vel edificand*is* cu*m* p*er*tin*enciis* suis, p*re*fat*o* Edwardo marten heredib*us* et assign*atis* suis imp*er*p*etuu*m Reddendo inde An*n*uatim p*re*fat*is* maiori. Civib*us* et C*ommun*itat*i* Ciuitat*is* p*re*dict*e* et successorib*us* n*ost*ris ad vsum eiusd*e*m Co*mmun*itat*is* ad manus Thesurarior*um* Ciui*tatis* Cestr*ie* p*re*d*icte* p*ro* temp*o*re existen*tium* duodecim denarios legal*is* monet*e* Anglie ad fest*a* Annu*n*ciac*io*nis beat*e* marie virginis et *Sanct*i mich*ael*is Arch*angel*i equis porc*ion*ibus soluend*os* Et si contingat An*n*ualem Reddit*um* p*re*d*ic*tum Aretro fore non solut*um* in p*ar*te vel in toto p*er* Spaciu*m* quadrag⟨…⟩ dier*um* post aliquod fest*um*, festor*um* p*re*d*ictorum* in quo vt p*re*fert*ur* solui debeat (hoc deb*ito* modo petit*o*) Tunc bene liceat nob*is* p*re*fat*is* maiori, Civib*us* et Co*mmun*itati Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* et successorib*us* n*ost*ris in p*re*d*ictam* vacua*m* placeam siue p*ar*cella*m* terr*e* et ceter*a* p*re*miss*a* cu*m* p*er*tin*enciis* reintrare, reh*ab*ere et pristinu*m* n*ost*ru*m* statum reassumere et imp*er*p*etuu*m retinere (hac p*rese*nt*e* Carta n*ost*ra indentat*a* in aliquo non obstan*te*) | Et nos vero p*re*fat*i* Maior, Cives et Co*mmun*itas Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* et successores n*ost*ri p*re*dict*am* placeam siue vacuam p*ar*cellam terr*e* et cetera om*n*ia p*re*missa cum p*er*tinenc*iis* p*re*f⟨…⟩ Edwardo Marten heredib*us* et Assignat*is* suis pro Reddit*u* p*re*d*icto* et modo et forma p*re*⟨…⟩ contra omnes gentes warran*tabimus* et imp*er*p*etuum* p*er* p*re*sentes defendemus Ac insup*er* sciat⟨..⟩ nos p*re*fat*os* maiorem Cives et Co*mmun*itatem Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* Atturnasse, fecisse et in locis n*ost*ris p*er* p*rese*ntes posuisse, dil*ect*os nob*is* in chr*ist*o Robert*um* wildinge et willi*elmu*m Browne de d*ict*a Ciuitat*e* n*ost*ros veros et l*e*gittimos Atturnat*os* coniunctim et diuisim ad intran⟨.⟩ p*ro* nob*is*, vicib*us* et no*minib*us n*ost*ris in p*re*d*ictam* vacua*m* p*ar*cellam terre et ceter*a* p*re*miss*a* cum p*er*tin*enciis* Et possessionemq*ue* sei*sin*am inde capiend*as* et post huiusmod*i* possessionemq*ue* sei*sin*am sic inde capt*as* et h*abi*t*as* ad deliberand*um* p*re*fat*o* Edwardo marten aut eius in hac p*ar*te cert*o* Attur*nato* *secund*um vim formam et effectum huius p*re*sentis carte n*ost*re

4/ terre: *second* r *corrected over* a

26/ imp*er*p*etuu*m: *5 minims for* im *in* MS

37, 38/ possessionemq*ue* sei*sin*am: *for* possessionem seisinamque indentat*e* inde ei confect*e* Rat*um* et grat*um* h*ab*en*te* et h*ab*itur*o* tot*um* et quicquid dict*i* Atturn*ati* n*ost*ri no*mini*b*us* n*ost*ris fecerint vel eorum alter fecerit in p*re*missi*s* In Cui⟨..⟩ Rei Testimoniu*m* vni p*ar*ti hui*us* p*re*sent*is* Carte n*ost*re indentat*e* penes p*re*fat*um* Edwardu*m* marten remanen*ti* nos p*re*fat*i* maior Cives et Co*mmun*itas Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* Sigillu*m* Co*mmun*e Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* apponi fecimus Alt*er*i vero p*ar*ti eiusd*em* cart*e* n*ost*re indentat*e* penes nos p*re*fat*os* maior*em* Cives et Co*mmun*itat*em* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* remanen*ti* p*re*fatus Edwardus marten Sigillum suu*m* Apposuit dat*um* Apud Ciuitat*em* Cestr*ie* decimo quinto die mens*is* Octobris Anno regni d*omi*ne Elizab*ethe* dei gr*aci*a Angl*ie* ffrauncie et hib*erni*e Regine fidei defensoris &c sext*o* decimo

City Treasurer's Voucher CCALS: ZTAV 1/1
single sheet*

…	
It*em* for setting the harnest men in A Rey at midsom*mer*	ij s.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 64v *(11 November 1572–11 November 1573) (Expenses)*

…	
Item payde the menstrell*es* on martens even	xvj d.
…	

f 66 *(11 November 1573–11 November 1574)*

…	
Item payde the mynstrell*es* on martens day	xx d.
…	
Item geven the menstrell*es* at willyam Kerk*es* drynkynge	vj d.
Item payde for the gleves	iij s. vj d.
Item payde for Ryngynge curfer	ij s.
Item for berreiche of the gleves	ij d.
…	
Item geven the menstrell*es* on throfte thurseday	viij d.
Item spente the same day over the shotte	viij d.
Item geven the [menstrell*es*] stewart*es* of the Iornemen for there paynes thosse days	viij d.
…	

f 66v

Item geven the menstrell*es* on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item payde the presoner*es* in the northegate & the castell	viij d.

33/ throfte thurseday: *25 February 1573/4*

It*em* payde the crier	j d.
Item spente on the menstrell*es*	j d.
Item for the horsse & aReeyenge hym that Rode on mydsomer even	xviij d.
Item payde for payntynge the banner	xvj d.
Item payde hys fote man	iiij d.

...

Painters’, Glaziers’, Embroiderers’, and Stationers’ Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [53] *(18 October–18 October)*

...

It*em* lede doune Apon sante lukes day for iij quartes of sake	xviij d.
It*em* the same day to the mynstrels	vj d.

...

It*em* spent at the dressyng [A] of the chyld vppon mydsomer euen	ij d.
I*tem* to wyllyam Ryc*hard*son at the barres	j d.
I*tem* to the prysoners at the castell	ij d.
I*tem* to the prysoners at the northgate	ij d.
I*tem* to the mynstrell*es*	xij d.
I*tem* for our banket at our Aldermans housse	iiij s. iiij d.

...

f [55]*

...

for the pley euerye man hathe payde that is croste	iij s. iij d.

...

f [56v]*

...

ytem for thomas pooll*es* child bycose he pled not our god	iiij d.

...

AC

Smiths’, Cutlers’, and Plumbers’ Accounts BL: Harley MS 2054

f 20 *(1 July 1573–4 July 1574)*

...

for mynstrells at Ann Stokens wedinge iiij d.

...to mynstrells on St Loyes day xij d.

...

Midsomer euen

for a payre of hosse for him that ridd viij d. makinge his apparell viij d.

for gloues 3 d. horsebred for the horse iiij d. to Cryor at barrs j d. to prisoners at castell & norgate viij d.
spent at mr mounforts ij s. viij d. at Alder*man* Stokens ij d.
for Arsedyne & dressinge of our signe vj d. to mynstrells xvj d.
for goinge to hooton & poole to fach gere for the child 4 d.
...

1574–5

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 159v* *(30 May)* *(Assembly meeting)*
...

⟨.⟩greed vpon that the plaies Called whitson ⟨.⟩laies at midd*summer* next ⟨.⟩halbe set furth and plaied

At whiche Assembly yt was Ordered Concluded and Agreed vpon by the said Maior Aldermen Sheriff*es* and Comon Counsaile of the said Citie That the plaies Comonly Called the Whitson plaies At Midsom*er* next Comynge shalbe sett furth and plaied in such orderly man*er* and sorte as the same haue ben Accostomed w*i*th such correction and amendem*ent* as shalbe thaught Convenient by the said Maior And all Charg*es* of the said plaies to be supported and borne by thinhabitant*es* of the said Citie as haue ben heretofore vsed.
...

Order Concerning the Setting Forth of the Whitsun Plays
CCALS: ZAF 3/25
single sheet* *(30 May)* *(Assembly meeting)*
...

wheth*er* the accostomed plaes called the whitson plaes shalbe sett furth & plaied at mide*summer* next or not

meet to be plaid and to begyn [monday] ⌈sonday⌉ after mid*summer* day next °1575°	not meet
0000	000
00000	000
0000	000
0000	000
0000	12
0000	
0000	
0000	
0	

30–1/ ⌈sonday⌉ after mid*summer* day next: *26 June 1575*

33 agreid they shall be sett furth in the best fassion with such reformac*ion* as m*aste*r maior w*i*th his advice shall think meet & convenient…

Sheriffs' Court Books CCALS: ZSBC 21/1

f [11] *(29 October)*

…

Petrus Cally al*ias* d*ict*us p⟨…⟩ Ciuitat*is* p*re*dict*e* musicion q*ueritur* n⟨…⟩ al*ias* d*ictu*m Ricardu*m* *qui* nup*er* de Ciuita⟨…⟩ et Rad*ulfu*m madock al*ias* d*ictu*m Radulf⟨..⟩ eadem Ciuitat*e* baker in pl*acitum* ⟨…⟩ pleg*ium* de pro*sequendo* Ioh*ann*es hert et p⟨…⟩

…

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/15

mb [2] *(15 October–14 October)*

…

Rob*er*tus hill pro vno domo voc*ato* le tailliors carriage howse prope wollf gate prope newgate	ij s. vj d.

…

mb [6] *(Watergate Street)*

…

nich*ola*us white pro dom*o* p*ro*xim*o* adiacen*te* cuid*a*m dom*ui* voc*ate* drap*er*s carighouse	iij s. iiij d.
…	
Senescal*lis* del m*er*cers pro dom*o* Cariag*ij*	vj d.

…

mb [7]

…

Iohanni Allen vni ex vic*ecomitibus* ad soluend*um* tunica	
Thome bennett paver et pro lez waitm*en*s gownes	vij li. x s. vij d.
Senescallis del sadlers pro feod*o* suo	vj s. viij d.
…	
Thome gillam pro saltac*ione* in festo nat*iuitatis sancti* Ioh*ann*is bap*tis*te	vj s. viij d.

1/ 33: *for* 34

32/ tunica: *for* pro tunica

A ***Mayors List 1*** BL: Harley MS 1046
f 164v* *(15 October–14 October)*

...

this year the said S*ir* Iohn Sauage caused ye popish plaies of Chester to bee playd ye Sunday Munday Tuesday and Wensday after Midsummer day in contempt of and Inhibition and ye primates letters from yorke and from ye Earle of Huntington, for which cause hee was serued by a purseuant from yorke, ye same day y*a*t ye new Maior was elected, as they came out of ye common hall, notwithstanding the said S*ir* Iohn Sauage tooke his way towards London, but how his matter sped is not knowne Also Mr Hanky was serued by the same Purseuant for ye like contempt when hee was Maior, diuers others of ye Citizens and players were troubled for ye same matter

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 40v* *(15 October–14 October)*

...

The whitson playes played in pageantes in this cittye °at midsomer to the great dislike of many because the playe was in on part of the Citty°

...

AC ***Mayors List 7*** BL: Harley MS 2133
f 43v *(15 October–14 October)*

...

The whitson playes were plaid at Midsom*er*, and then but some of them leaueinge others vnplaid w*hi*ch were thought might not be Iustified for the sup*er*stition that was in them. Allthough the Maior was enjoyned not to p*ro*ceed therein

...

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542
f [30v] *(15 October–14 October)*

...

This yeare the plage beganne, but god of his m*er*cie stayed that his Rodde w*it*h the deathe of a fewe poore in the croftes The playes lykewise this yeare played at mydsom*er* and then but some of theime leavinge others vnplayed w*hi*ch was thought mighte not be Iustified for the sup*er*stitons in theime althoughe the maior was inioyed not to p*ro*ceade theirw*it*h at all by tharsbushope of york

...

5/ ye Sunday Munday Tuesday and Wensday after Midsummer day: *26–9 June 1575*

17–18/ at ... Citty: *in RH II's hand*

37–8/ by tharsbushope of york: *in different ink*

A **Mayors List 13** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 13 *(15 October–14 October)*

…

The whitson playes played in this Cittye. not withstanding an Inhibition beinge p*ro*cured. by some precise Cittizins from the bishopp of yorke to staye them/ the said maior kepte greate hospetallitye. the p⟨…⟩e folkes. daiely havinge greate releiffe at his gates. This ⟨..⟩inge the Seconde tyme of his mayoraltye

AC **Mayors List 14** CCALS: DLE 85
f [26v] *(15 October–14 October)*

…

This yeare ye plage beganne, but God of his mercie stayed y*a*t his rodde with ye deathe of a fewe in ye croftes of ye poore; The pleayes at [whist] midsom*er* weare parte of them pleayed, others lefte vnpleayed, not thought fitte, or to be iustified for ye superstions in them; the maior was inioyn*ed* not to p*ro*seaide theirwith at all by ye arsbushope of yorke

…

AC **Mayors List 18** Bodl.: MS. Rawlinson B. 282
f 81v *(15 October–14 October)*

…

This yeare ye said S*ir* Iohn Savage, caused The Popish Playes of Chester, to be played, the Sonday, Monday Tewsday & Wensday after Midsomer day. In contempt of an Inhibition & the primats Letters from York, & from ye Erle of Huntington. ffor which Cause, he was served by a pursevant from York, the same day that ye new Maior was elected, as they came out of ye Comon hall. Notw*ith*standing ye said S*ir* Iohn Savage tooke his Iorney towards London, but how his matter spedd, is not knowne. Also Mr hanky, was served by the same pursevant, for ye lyke Contempt, when he was Maior. Dyu*er*s others of ye Citezens & players, were trowbled for ye same Matter.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Company Book
CCALS: ZG 7/1
f [7] *(21 November) (Orders and agreements)*

…

to wait on the Aldermen

It is agreed amongst the whole Company that every Brother beeing at home shall waite vpon the Aldermen and Steward*es* vpon midsumer Even or else to pay for his fine 0 li. 1 s. 0 d.

…

15/ superstions: *for* superstitions
23/ the Sonday, Monday Tewsday & Wensday after Midsomer day: *26–9 June 1575*

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [7] *(20 November–20 November)*

Ite*m* Receaved of the stuard*es* of the paynters for o*ur* cariadge	v s. iiij d.
Ite*m* Receaved of the stuardes of the hatmakers & skyners vj s. 8 d.	

. . .

ff [7v–8]

. . .

Ite*m* spent in o*ur* aldermans at the rydinge of the banes	xij d.
Ite*m* spend in horsbred	vj d.
Ite*m* paied for wryttinge the parcel*es*	vj d.
Ite*m* paied for ij peare of gloves	vj d.
Ite*m* spend apon Thomas marser to get him to pleay	ij d.
Ite*m* geven William Rycharson	j d.
Ite*m* spent at the receavinge custome	iij d.
Ite*m* spent at the fyrste rehearse	vj d.
Ite*m* spend at the secunde rehearse	xij d.
Ite*m* spend at the thred rehearse	xij d.
Ite*m* paied for a peare of whelles	iiij s.
Ite*m* geven the presonars when we rode the banes	ij d.
Ite*m* paied for nealis to the cariadge	xij d.
Ite*m* spend at the dressinge the cariadge	x d.
Ite*m* paied for the payntinge the playars clothes	ij s. viij d.
Ite*m* spend on margery gybban to get o*ur* regynale	ij d.
Ite*m* paied vnto Robart slye for helpinge at the cariadge	v d.
Ite*m* spend at o*ur* generall rehearse	ij s. x d.
Ite*m* for a borde to the cariadge	iiij d.
Ite*m* for nealis to neale the hingis	ij d.
Ite*m* spent at the Bringinge vp the cariadge	viiij d.
Ite*m* spent on [med] Rychard Doby	ij d. |
Item spent on Edwarde porter & for ij copes	vlij d.
Ite*m* nealis pynnis and cordes & drynke at the bowinge o*ur* cariadge	vj d.
Ite*m* at the fyrste dresnge dresinge the cariadge for cordes	ij d.
Ite*m* for newe housinge to our cariadge	vj d.
Ite*m* for thre cla*m*pes of Iren to the cariadge	xvj d.
Ite*m* for the mendinge of arrat*es* vysar	iiij d.
Ite*m* spent at the Bowninge of the players	ij d.
Ite*m* paied for drynke to the players	ij s.

33/ bowinge: *for* bowninge

35/ dresnge dresinge: *dittography*

Item spent at the vnbowninge of the players in drynke & bred	xij d.
Ite*m* paied vnto pylat and to him that caried arrat*es* clothes & for there gloves	vj s. vj d.
Item paied vnto the turmenters	iiij s. vj d.
Item paied vnto annas	xxij d.
Item paied the putters of o*ur* cariadge	ij s. viij d.
Item paied the wright for settinge vp o*ur* cariadge & takinge yt done and asonder	ij s. x d.
Item spend at the takinge downe of o*ur* cariadge on som of o*ur* compeny	xij d.
Item spend at the receavinge of o*ur* mony for the cariadge of the paynters	iiij d.
Item entringe a accion agaynste Ihon ashewode and for the arestment of him	viij d.
Item more spent when we went to paye the players	vj d.
Item paied houghe sparke for redinge the regynall	ij s.
Item spent on medsomer even apon the compeny	v s. iiij d.
Item spent at the Bowninge of o*ur* boye to ryde Before us	viij d.
Item geven the presonars on medsom*er* even	vj d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 66v *(11 November 1573–11 November 1574) (Expenses)*

...

Ite*m* spente on martens even	xiiij s.
Ite*m* payde the mynstrel*es* the same nyghte	ij s. iiij d.

...

ff 68–8v* *(11 November 1574–11 November 1575)*

...

In primis payde the Whetemen on martens day	vij d.
Item payde peter cally the same day	vij d.
Item payde shurlocke the menstrell	iiij d.
Item payd thomas fidler the same day	iiij d.

...

Item payde for gleves	iij s. vj d.
Item payde for the bariage of the gleves	ij d.
Item payde for Wheetemen at gutted	vj d.
Item geven the stewart*es* of the Iorneme for sarvynge vs	vj d.
Item payde the wheete men at wyllyam symcock*es*	vj d.

39/ gutted: *14 February 1574/5*

40/ Iorneme: *for* Iornemen

Item payde the shyrreff*es*	ij s.
Item payde the iiij sargans	xvj d.
Item payde for arfflaye donne for the syne	ij d.
Item payde the menstrell*es* on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item payde the chyllde that Rode	xviij d.
Item payde hys fote man	iiij d.

...

Item payde the presoner*es* in the castell	viij d.
Item spente at the stewarte Inc*es*	viij d. |
Item payde the crier at mydsomer a penny	j d.

...

Item payde the menstrell*es* at peter bennett*es* drinkynge	ij s. iiij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 15 *(25 March 1575–25 March 1576)*

...

It*em* payed for ij hudes for vs the ij stuardes	vj s.
It*em* payed to the mynstreles at mydsomer	xij d.
It*em* payed to the presoneres in the castell	iiij d.
It*em* payed to pole to the berege for makinge our armes	v d.
It*em* geven to the presoneres in the northegate	ij d.
It*em* payed for a wyer to the baner	iiij d.
It*em* payed for a peare of to the boye apone mydsomer even that Rid afore the compenye	vj d.
It*em* payed for a pere of gloves to the boye	ij d.
It*em* payed for a staffe to the banere	iiij d.
It*em* payed for grene silcke	j d.

...

It*em* that wee stuardes haue payed for makinge of the banner	iij s. iiij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

ff [59–60]* *(18 October–18 October)*

ffor whytson playes in the yere of oure lorde god .1575. and in the same yere soure Iohn sauyche mayre of this syte of chester/

°22
1575
1597/°

24/ peare of to: *word omitted; possibly* shoes
41/ 1597: *underlined*

It*em* for bred to oure horses when wye rede the banes	viij d.
It*em* to rycharson at the banes rydeng	j d.
It*em* to the presnars at the castell	j d.
It*em* to the berynge of the caryge	v d.
It*em* I layde down*ne* at the Reherse by sovre m*aste*r mayre	xij d.
It*em* for bere to the pleares at the same reherse	j d.
It*em* ffor ij got skynes ffor trow shous	[iiij d.] iij d.
It*em* for xij erthen moges	xxj d.
It*em* for the hayare of the ij bardes and trowes cape	vj d.
It*em* for wystelles	ij d.
It*em* layde down [at my] at my alderman halwods for the reste of the shot ⌊one medsomers eue⌋	xvj d.
It*em* to the menstrelles	xij d.
It*em* to the presnares in the castell	ij d.
[castell] to the presnares in the northe gate	j d.
It*em* for snyges	j d.
It*em* for the brebynge of the botell	ij d.
It*em* in neles pynes a*nd* pakethryde	vj d.
It*em* payd to anderasone	iiij d.
It*em* for [⟨.⟩] pouder for the sengers	vj d. |
It*em* for the leg[e] loyne a*nd* tounge of velle	xv d.
It*em* for the topas hed and the groyne	ij d.
It*em* for the calues fyte	j d.
It*em* for the boylange and dressynge the garbyche	xij d.
It*em* for vj hagosses	iij s. vj d.
It*em* for ij chysses	iiij d.
It*em* for the copynge of a parsell	iiij d.
It*em* for vij poutters of the caryche	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* for peter of mosten for makynge of troules shoues a*nd* hys paynes	xij d.
It*em* iij shepardes boyes	iij s.
It*em* for troulles boye	vj d.
It*em* to Iosefe	xij d.
It*em* to marye	vj d.
It*em* to ouer angell	vj d.
It*em* for a Ianokes	ij d.
It*em* for cakes	iiij d.
It*em* for bouter	vj d.
It*em* for drynke to the ples	x d.
It*em* to rychard dobye for goynge one the styltes at the banes rydenge	vj d.
It*em* ffor goynge one the styltes one medsomare eue	vj d.
It*em* for the mynstrell to the plase	ij s.

It*em* in borowenge tangkeres bages	ij d.
It*em* for wedes	ij d.
It*em* for the souper to the pleares	v s.
It*em* [f] bystoued one drynke to the pouters when the playe was donne	vj d. |
It*em* for troulles wages and hys shoues	iij s.
It*em* payde for the caryge	vj s. iiij d.
It*em* spend at the same tyme	iij d.
It*em* for hankyns wages	ij s.
It*em* for harvyes wages	xx d.
It*em* for toudes wages	xx d.
It*em* for the rydenge [of the] of the regenall	xij d.
It*em* that the pleares at my aldermanes house	ij d.
It*em* to my alder man halwod for the makynge the [b]pye and pentenge the styltes	[viij d.] x d.
It*em* for a paste balye	viij d.
the some is lj s. xj d.	

Roger framwall is vn paid this yere 1575	
It*em* for the pleayse	iij s. iij d.

...

AC ***Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts*** BL: Harley MS 2054
ff 20v–1 *(4 July–3 July)*

...

spent on the players & other things necessisary xij s.
Spent at Tyes to heare 2 plays before the Aldermen to take the best xviij d.
for drink at our generall reherse v s.
led out att medsamar yeuan to the presnars ij d. in norgate
for thryd to sowe the bowes ger that went afore hus att mydsamar ij d.
for horsse bred for the nag he red apon 4 d.
our bangket when we Cam ffrome the wache vj s.
for tallow for the Carrage iij d.
to the menstr[el]eles at our generall rehers and midsamar and w*i*th our pagan v s.
to litle god 20 d. to oure marye xviij d. to our 2 docter xvj d. for Sop to wache our gere we borrowed viij d. for penes & nayles xij d.
for bere at mr burgeses viij d.
for 9 men to Carry our Carryche & one tressell & 2 that did help me in the morninge 3 s. 9 d. ob.

13/ It*em* that: *for* Item to *or* Item for
26/ neccessisary: *for* necessary
40/ morninge: *4 minims in* MS

for making the bewes gowne 4 d. for knetting of our bewes house tat Rid before vs at Midsamar viij d.
for the banes & dring at the barrs xij d. at medsamar yuen to presnars 4 d.
for the syne & ffaxe xij d.
for the copes & clotthe xij d. |
to 3 of the synngares xiiij d. spent at Io*hn* dowes xvj d.
at the banes for glowffes & to the plears & Aldermen at bringinge of our pagen forth 3 s. 2 d.
on of the syngares had for his panes & gloffes xvj d.
to Io*hn* a shawe for lone of a docters gowne & a hode for our eldest docter xij d.
payd for our ffirst angell vj d.
for dryngke at dressinge our Carrge vj d.
to Seameon iij s. to our frest doctor xvj d. to our tret doctor xij d. to our dame An x d.
to gossep xvj d. to secon angell vj d.
to the skenars iij s.
...

Quarter Sessions Depositions CCALS: ZQSF 29/122
single sheet* *(23 March)*
...
Edmund Cally of the Cyty of Chest*er* Musici*on* servant to the said Iohn Dutton esq*uie*r of thidg*e* of xxxth of yeres or thereaboute*s* Sworne
...

Draft Letter of Christopher Goodman to Sir John Savage
DRO: DD/PP/843
ff [1–1v]*

To the right w*orshipful* Sir I*ohn* Savage Maior and his w*orshipful* breth⟨...⟩
of the Citie of Chester. Christ*opher* *Goodman* preacher, wisheth
p⟨...⟩ in Christ w*i*th the spirit of rightious iudgeme*n*t &
willing⟨.⟩ obedience to his holy worde &c.

diswaded meny tymes therfrom, as well by pub*lic* preach*ing* as privat monitions [meny tymes therfro diswaded by sundrie s*er*mons of suche as can*n*ot but wysshe well to you all]†
Vnderstandinge (right w*orshipful*) how you for the moast ˄⌜part⌝ are agreed & ⟨...⟩mined to set forthe the sup*er*stitious whitson plays of this Citie at midso⟨...⟩ next, notw*i*thstandinge they contene suche absurd matter and doctrine, a⟨.⟩ nether sta*n*deth w*i*th god*es* word nor the religion w*hi*ch you professe, nor the laws of this realme: beinge also ˄⌜and moreover⌝ expresly

---

1/ tat: *for* that

22/ Edmund: *5 minims in* MS

[Beinge borne in this citie whose pare*ntes* of good and monie, were well knowne to meny of you now lyving]

forbydde*n* so to do by lawfull auct⟨.⟩ritie in hir Ma*ies*ties name, wherby the heart*es* of many godly & honest p*er*⟨...⟩ are greatly wounded, the peace of this citie [moche] ⌈dangerously⌉ assalted, meny for feare of your displeasure constrayned to gyve there consent, others thr⟨...⟩[ned] make eny resistance thretned, thoghe they aledge never so good caus⟨.⟩ to the contrarie. I [therfore], in co*n*sideration of my dutie to your *Worship* & ‸⌈naturall⌉ loue to this Citie ‸⌈where I & my parent*es* were borne & broght vp for the most part⌉ & reverence I bayre to the word of god w*hi*ch I professe, humblie beseche you, to desist & sursesse from this dangerous & chargeable attempt, as well in respect of god*es* displeasure, throghe the vanitie of the matter, as of this one late visitation wherin he hathe so mercifully dealt w*i*th vs, and yet so, as greater danger & displeasure may (yf your plays shall procede) [be feared to] insue./ Offer not vp ‸⌈deare brethre*n*⌉ suche an vnsaverie sacrifice, as may provoke his forther displeasure. pu*n*ysh not your poore brethr*en* of this citie w*i*th nedeles charges, whom god now hathe of his fatherly goodnes almost freed from corporall plage or pestilence. Studie. I beseche you how to kepe the*m* well occupide, rather tha*n* by vayne plays to make the*m* ydle. I heare alasse, (to my greate greffe) of the ⌈late⌉ losse of ‸⌈one chefest ship named⌉ the bayre w*i*th all hir Ladeinge, the slaghter of diuers marchand*es* & marineres our brethre*n* in hire, to the vnspeakable sowrow of their wyves childr*en* & other frend*es*, w*i*th the losses & hindrance of many an honest ma*n* & occupire in this Citie, whose greffe sholde be owrs & ‸⌈Rather an⌉ occasion of publique lame*n*tac*io*n or fastinge & prayinge than of solacinge our selves w*i*th feastiuite interteninge of frend*es* & vaine plays. Yf we were freed from all thes plagues, and all necessarie workes abowt this Citie [to be] done. Yf wickednes & sin were suppressed, & disolute persons broght to good order. Yf the Citie were so hable to cast away so moche monie as by occasion of thes plays wilbe vainely wasted, or ell*es* coulde not bestow it better: than myght ‸⌈you⌉ seme to haue som pretence & leasure to play. But for as moche as you want not menie nedefull work*es* by god com*m*anded, requisite & profitable for this como*n*welthe, wherin you may be well occupide all the days of your lyffe, to the glory of god, your i*m*mortall prayse, [&] co*m*fort of your posterite & pres*er*uation of this your com*mon* welthe: I do eftsones humblie beseche you, therin diligently occupie your selues, desistinge from all occasions, as may w*i*thdraw you from the same & namely from your vnlawfull, but lawfully forbydden plays. Let not will or affect*ion* prevayle against god*es* worde & your owne knowledge & conscience & know you strive not against [vs] me & others your ministers, w*i*th suche as I as vnfaynedly feare god & wishe well [bothe] to religion ‸⌈to⌉ your parsons & this comon welthe: But against God him selffe whose glorious word & blessed sacrame*ntes* are hereby shamfully abused & moast vnchr*isti*anlyke prophaned. This thinge yf I may not obtaine

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38/ as: *catchword*

at your hand*es* as willingly, as I of good will to you & moast ernistly crave it, I feare me greatly that god an other day wilbe revenged of this cont*em*pt & that he, who is the rightious iudge & knowethe the secret*es* of your hert*es*, will lay it so hevely to your charge, as you shall haue iust cause to repent, whan you can*n*ot remedie ‸⌈it⌉ & whan it wilbe to late to say had I wist. God of all M*er*cie graunt you the grace so to consider of my humble & moast lawfull request, as I may se, to my comfort, som fructe of my longe travell amongist you, and of your obedience to his blessed worde w*i*th the testimo*ny* of agood conscience Ame*n*. ffrom my hows the *(blank)*

This letter was not deliuered because I had privatly talked w*i*th the mayre before & after prached against the plays./

1575–6

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

ff 162v–3 *(21 November) (Assembly meeting)*

...

°A request by S*ir* Iohn Savag knight to have c*er*tificat towching his setting furth of whitson plaies°

Whereas informac*i*on was geven to the saide maior and certein others his bretherne on the behallf of Sir Iohn Savage knighte that he shuld be Charged to haue sett furthe and caused to be plaide the accostomed pageons and plays Called the whitson plays in the tyme of his maioraltie at midsomer laste of himsellf to satisfy his owne will and pleasure and contrary to his othe and dutie without the assente or consente of the reste of his bretherne and of the Common counsell of the same/ And whereallsoe the saide Sir Iohn Savage hath addressed his letters to the saide maior and his bretherne thaldermen requestinge them vnder the Cities seale to certefy the trueth therein together with the transcripte of an order therof taken/ whervpon this assemblie was called and the p*re*misse hearde wayed and considered And wherallsoe at this assemblie Iohn hanky ald*erman* enformeth the same that he was burthened with the like offence viz. for the settinge furthe him sellf of the whitson plays without any assent or consente of the aldermen and comen counsell in the tyme of his late maioralty of this City, that is to say the xiiijth yere of the raigne of the quenes ma*ies*tie that nowe is/ who all soe made requeste that this assembly wolde allsoe Certefy with him the man*er* howe the saide plais were sett furth in his late maioralty whether of him sellf or by assente and consente of the aldermen and com*m*en counsell of this Citie w*hi*ch allso beinge likewise wayed and considered And for that the appereth of Recorde entred in the booke of the orders of this Citie a certen concluc*i*on order and constituc*i*on made in the tyme of the maioraltie of the saide Sir Iohn Savage aucthorisinge him with assent of thaldermen Sheriff*es* and comon counsell of the saide Citie to sett furthe the saide plays in the saide tyme of his maioralty And for that all soe it is confessed by this whole assemblie that the saide Iohn

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7/ longe: lo *written over* tr

hanky in the tyme of his maioralty of the saide Citie did sett furthe the said plays by thassent and consente of the aldermen sheriff*es* and com*m*en counsell of this Citie and so waranted and auctorised so to doe by assemblie/ It is nowe the day and yere firste above remembred ordered concluded vpon and agried by the saide maior the aldermen Sheriff*es* sheriff*es* peeres and com*m*on counsell of the said City, That certificate shalbe made from and in the name of the corp*oraci*on of this Citie and vnder the com*m*en seale of the same City p*ro*portinge the saide informac*i*on And that at suche request*es* as before suche certificate is made that the saide surmyses alledged againste the saide Sir Iohn Savage and Iohn hankie are vntrue And that the saide plays set furthe in their seu*er*all maioralties was seu*er*ally don by thassent consente good will and agreamente of the alderme*n* sheriff*es* sheriff*es* peeres and Comen counsell of the saide Citie and so determyned by seu*er*all orders agried vpon in open assemblie acordinge to the auncyent and lawdable custom of the saide Citie whereunto and for the performance wherof the whole Citizens of the Citie are bounde and tyed by othe as they ar to other their orders And that they the saide Sir Iohn Savage and Iohn hanky nor either of | them did nothinge in their seu*er*all tymes of maioralties towchinge the saide plays but by thassent consent and full agreamente of the aldermen sheriff*es* and come*n* counsell of the saide Citie in the sellf safe same manner and forme as the same nowe is pennd and redd to this assembly/ And it is further ordered that aswell the saide seu*er*all letters of the saide Sir Iohn Savage towchinge his saide requeste As all soe the saide such certificate shalbe entred verbatim in the saide booke called the table booke of the saide City for the inrolment*es* of all the indentures leases and ded*es* concerninge the land*es* of the saide Citie All w*hi*ch was and is so don*n* acordynglie./

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 21
f 187v* *(25 October)*

. . .

Whereas Andrew Tailer of the said Citie Tailer vsinge the occupac*i*on of Diers w*i*thin the same Citie was taxed and sossed to beare w*i*th the Compeny of Dyers by the same company for the charg*es* in the setting furth of their p*ar*te and pagent of the plaies sett furth and plaied in this Citie at midsom*er* laste past comonly Called whytson plaies and by the said Compeny rated and appointed to paie for that entent iij s. viij d. w*hi*ch he refused to paie And whereas vpon the complainte of the said Compeny of diers againste the said Andrew to the right worshipfull S*i*r Iohn Savage knight late maior of the same Citie in the tyme of his mairalty whervpon the same Andrew beinge Called before the same then maior in that behalf denied to paie the same And therfore the said Andrew Tailler was then and ther by the said then Maior

16/ tyed: t *corrected from* b

32/ sossed: *for* sessed

Comytted to warde where he hethervnto hath remayned And whereas Iohn Banester and Edmunde Gamull gent*lemen* Cam before henry hardware maior of the said Citie/ will*ia*m Gerrard and w*illia*m Glaseor esquiers Aldermen*n* of the same Citie and others the Iustices of peace w*it*hin the same Citie the daie yere and place firste aboue remembred and willed that the said Andrew Tailer vpon paym*en*t of the said iij s. viij d. might be of his said imp*r*isonment enlarged [w*hi*ch so] whervpon now the said Iohn Banest*er* & Edmund Gamull haue paied and discharged the said iij s. viij d. for the said Andrew and vpon such paym*en*t the said Andrew Tailer the said daie yere and place was of his said imp*r*isonm*en*t enlarged and sett at libertie by the said now maior the said aldermen and others of the Iustic*es* of peace aforesaid

Sheriffs' Court Books CCALS: ZSBC 22
f 301 *(13 December)*

...

App*r*eciau*er*unt vnu*m* le Irishe harpe et vn*um* pair calligar*um* voc*atum* one paire tuftmocado gaskyns pro viij s. iiij d. de bon*is* et Cattall*is* Anne shingleton vid*ue* in costod*ia* Ric*ardi* wright re⟨…⟩

...

Appreciauerunt vn*um* pair del virginall*es* et vn*um* le daggar pro viij s. de bon*is* et Cattall*is* Ioh*ann*is Tailler in custod*ia* Iohannis Do reman*entia*./.

...

Corporation Lease Book CCALS: ZCHB 3
f 28* *(10 November)*

After my right hartie Comendac*i*ons where it hathe bene enformed to the prevey Counsell that I caused the plays laste at Chester to be sett forwarde onely of my sellf w*hi*ch your sellues do knowe the contrary And that they were by comon assemblie apointed as remayneth in Recorde ffor the easinge and qualefyinge all controuersees growen abowte the same I am moste hartely to desyre you to sende me a Certificate vnder your haund*es* and Seale of your Citie to testefy that the same plays were sett forwarde as well by the counsell of the Citie as for the comen welth of the same whereby their hono*u*rs may be the better satisfied thereof and hopinge thereby to reduce all suche matters quiett as are risen nowe againste me and mr hankye whom you muste make mencyon of in the Certificate as well as my sellf whiche I pray you may be sente me with as muche convenient speede as is possible So for this tyme I bidd yow farewell at London the xth of november 1575

Your lovinge ffrende
Iohn Savage./.

18/ re⟨…⟩: *for* remanentia

39/ 1575: *underlined*

f 28v* *(21 November)*

To all true chr*ist*en people to whom this p*rese*nte writinge shall come to be ⟨...⟩ hearde or redd henrie hardware nowe maior of the Citie of Chester and the Citizen ⟨...⟩ the same Citie sende gretinge in our lord god everlastinge. forasmuche as it is enfo⟨...⟩ vnto vs the saide maior and Citizens on the behallf of Sir Iohn Savage knight ⟨...⟩ it is reported that he the saide Sir Iohn Savage knighte beinge the yere laste paste maior of the saide Citie did then of his owne power and aucthoritie in the s⟨...⟩ tyme he was maior to the great abuse of the same office vnleafullie and by ind⟨...⟩ and synistre ways and meanes cause and procure to be plaide within the same C⟨...⟩ Certen pagions or plays comonlie there called witteson playes for the satisfying of his owne singuler will luste and pleasure to the great coste and Charges los⟨..⟩ and harme of the Citizens and inhabitaunt*es* of the saide Citie And to their no li⟨...⟩ impou*er*ishemente And not by the orderly assente of his then bretherne the aldermen ⟨...⟩ the comen counsell of the saide Citie as he shoulde and oughte to haue don*ne* nor to ⟨...⟩ for the wealth benefite and comoditie of the same Citie acordinge to his dutie ./. All w*hi*ch surmyses we well knowinge to be vntrue and that the saide Sir Iohn Sav⟨...⟩ knighte did nothinge the saide laste yere duringe the tyme he was maior as is aforsa⟨...⟩ in or abowte the settinge furth of the saide pagions or plays but only acordinge to an order concluded and agried vpon for dyu*er*s good and great considerac*i*ons redoundinge to the Comen wealthe benefite and profitte of the saide Citie in assemblie there holden acording to the auncyente and lawdable vsages and customes there hadd and vsed far above ⟨...⟩ remembraunce by and with the assente consente and agreamente of his saide then bretherne the aldermen of the saide Citie and of the comen counsell of the same ⟨...⟩ in execuc*i*on and accomplishement of the saide order To the performance wherof both the saide Sir Iohn Savage and we all that were then Citizens and freemen of the saide Citie were bounden and tyed by our othes so as we be to all our orders taken and made in and by our asse⟨...⟩ And therefore at and vpon the mocion and re⟨.⟩ueste made vnto vs in our assembly holden ⟨...⟩ day of the date of these p*rese*nt*es* on the behallf of the saide Sir Iohn Savage we the saide m⟨...⟩ and Citizens haue caused the tenor and transcripte of the saide order to be here wri⟨...⟩ as folowethe/ Ad congregac*i*onem tent*am* in co*mmun*i aula pl*acit*o*rum*

4/ ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* seen
5/ Citizen ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* Citizens of
6/ enfo⟨...⟩: *RH II read* enformed
7/ ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* that
9/ s⟨...⟩: *RH II read* saide
10/ ind⟨...⟩: *RH II read* indirect
11/ C⟨...⟩: *RH II read* Citie
13/ los⟨..⟩: *RH II read* losse
15/ li⟨...⟩: *RH II read* litle
16, 17/ ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* and
19/ Sav⟨...⟩: *RH II read* Savage
20/ aforsa⟨...⟩: *RH II read* aforsaide
25/ ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* mans
27/ ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* did
31/ asse⟨...⟩: *RH II read* assembly
32/ ⟨...⟩: *RH II read* they
33/ m⟨...⟩: *RH II read* maior
35/ wri⟨...⟩: *RH II read* written

Ciuitat*is* Cestr*ie* xxx^{o} die mai Anno R*egni* R*eg*ine Elizabeth &c. xvij^{o}/ At which assemblie it was ordered concluded and agried vpon by the saide maior aldermen sheriff*es* and com*m*on counsell of the saide City that the plays comonlie called the whitson plays at mydsom*er* nexte cominge shalbe sett furth and plaide in suche orderly manner and sorte as the same haue bene accustomed with suche correc*i*on and amendemente as shalbe thought conveniente by the saide maior And all charges of the saide plays to be supported and borne by thinhabitaunt*es* of the saide Citie as haue bene heretofore vsed/. And in wytnes that this is a true copy and transcripte of the saide order and warrante whereby and in accomplishm*ent* wherof the saide Sir Iohn Savage did cause the saide pagions and plays to be sett furth and playde as is aforesaide which did begyn the xxvjth of Iune laste paste in the afternone of the same day and there contynued vntill the wednesday at eveninge then nexte folowinge/ And that allsoe this p*rese*nte day in our saide assembly holden and kepte within the pentice of our saide Citie acordinge to the good and lawdable vsages & accustomes aforesaide Iohn hanky one of the aldermen and late maior of the saide City to wytt in the xiiijth yeare of the quenes ma*iestes* raigne that nowe is made his humble petic*i*on to the saide assemblie that it might please the same to publishe by theis p*resen*t*es* by what warrante he the saide Iohn hanky caused the saide plays to be sett furthe & plaide in the aforesaide yere that he was maior as is aforesaide of the same Cittie W*hi*ch saide petic*i*on consideringe the same is verey reasonable thaught mete to grante the same And therefore the saide maior and citizens doe publishe and declare that it was this day confessed by the saide assembly that the saide Iohn hanky alderman did in the tyme of his saide maioralty cause the saide plais to be sett furth and plaide onlie by vertue and in execuc*i*on of an order taken by assemblie of the saide Citie holden there the xxixth of aprill in the saide xiiijth yere of the quenes ma*iestes* raigne that nowe is And by and with the consente and assente of his saide bretherne the then aldermen of the saide City and comen counsell of the same And allsoe in wytnes hereof we the saide maior and Citizens haue to thes p*resen*t*es* sett the comon seale of the saide Cit‹..› dated at the saide Citie the xxjth day of november in the Eightenth yere of the raigne of our soueraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god of england fraunce and Irelaund quene defendor of the ffaith &c./.

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2

p 156 *(25 November–25 March) (Extraordinary expenses)*

...

It*em* to Will*ia*m walcheman for waytynge vpon the mayor
& the shreves iij nyght*es* in Christmas xij d.

...

32/ Cit‹..›: *RH II read* Citty

Bowyers’, Fletchers’, Coopers’, and Stringers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [9] *(20 November–20 November)*

…	
Item more R*eceaved* for a peare of the cariage whelles	iiij s. viij d.
…	
Ite*m* that yt coste us for lokinge for a boye to ryde on medsom*er* even	vj d.
Ite*m* that we gave the childe a peare of gloves	iij d.
Ite*m* that we spent the same daye we warned the occupation	ij d.
Ite*m* payed for horsbred that we gave the horse the childe rode on	iiij d.
Ite*m* geven the p*r*isonars at castell	iiij d.
Ite*m* geven the p*r*isonars at norgate	ij d.
Ite*m* geven will*ia*m rycharson	ij d.
Ite*m* for the drynkynge one medsom*er* even	iiij s. vj d.
…	

Cordwainers’ and Shoemakers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 68v *(11 November 1574–11 November 1575) (Expenses)*

…	
Item payde the menstrell*es* on martens even	xij d.
…	

f 70* *(11 November 1575–11 November 1576)*

…	
Ite*m* payde for the gleves the thrid day of marche	iiij s.
Ite*m* payde the waytemen in oure allderman Inc*es* the viij^th^ day of marche	viij d.
…	

f 70v*

Item payde Robarte leche for payntinge the banner	ij s. vj d.
Ite*m* spente on Robarte leche to the berrage	ij d.
Ite*m* payde the crier at the barres	j d.
Ite*m* payd the presoner*es* in the caster & in the northegate	viij d.
Ite*m* payde the chyllde that Rode before the occupacion	xviij d.
Ite*m* payde for a pottell of secke at oure alldermans	xij d.
Ite*m* payd the mynstrel*es* at mydsomer	ij s. vj d.

26/ the thrid day of marche: *ie, the Saturday before Shrove Tuesday 1576*

27–8/ the viijth day of marche: *ie, Shrove Thursday 1576*

It*em* payde for bere in oure alldermans the same nyghte ij d.
...
It*em* payd the mynstrell*es* at peter bennett*es* dynner xx d.
...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 16 *(25 March 1576–25 March 1577)*

...
It*em* geven to the presoneres vpon mydsomer even iiij d.
It*em* geven to the presoneres in the northe gatte vpon
mydsomer even iiij d.
It*em* geven to the cryer at the bares ij d.
...
It*em* payed to the mynstreles vpon mydsomer even viij d.
...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [61v] *(18 October–18 October)*

It*em* paid for the Compaynye on sent lukes daye att Richert Dob*ie*s
dynner as here after folowethe
It*em* for a potell of secke xij d.
It*em* [for] to the waytes men vj d.
...
I*tem* paid one mydsomar even to Ric*hard*son att
the barse j d.
I*tem* paide to the pryssoners in the castell and in
the norgate iij d.
I*tem* pad*e* to edwarde dobye for going on the styltes xij d.
I*tem* paid for dressing the boye vj d.
I*tem* paid to the mynstrell vj d.
I*tem* spend att our aldermans house on mydsomar
even vpon the mynstrell and the Companye vj d.
...

AC *Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2054

f 21* *(3 July–1 July)*

...
rec*eived* of the accounts of the pleayes xj s. iij d.
...

(Payments)
for 5 pynttes Seke on St Lowes daye at mr monforttes xv d. to mynstrells viij d.
...
at coming in of Tho*mas* Kemp v s. vj d. to menstrelles xij d.
...

® first banner they had at midsomer

The Armes ffor the showe
for selke to the same ij s. viij d. for fring xij d. for sowinge it vj d.
for paper & wyer for the same ij d. ob.
for the workmanshepe of the same x s. 4 d.
for dressinge the child xiij d. for hose & shewes for chyld xiiij d.
for yelow thred & pines 3 d.
on medsomer effe peayd at mr mownfords 4 s. 5 d. to menstrelles ij s.
...

(1 July 1576–30 June 1577)
to the wayte men on the election day xij d. to them when Tho*mas* Kemp made his dinner xij d.
the same day a pott*ell* of sack to vs a pott*ell* to our wiues & a pottell to m*aste*r maior iij s.
spent same day at m*aste*r leauelokers tauarne v s. iij d. to the mynstrell vj d.

1576–7
Sheriffs' Court Books CCALS: ZSBC 178
f [34] *(16 February)*
...
App*reciauerunt* vnu*m* le magnu*m* le Vyall viz. instrument*um* musicu*m* p*er* xiij s. iiij d. de bon*is* Rob*er*ti Thompson rem*anens* in custod*ia* Thom⟨.⟩ Ripon
...

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/16
mb [4]* *(12 October–11 October)*
...

Nich*o*lus white pro domo p*ro*xim*a* adiacen*te* cuidam dom*ui* voc*ate* drapers cariadge howse	iij s. iiij d.
...	
Senescal*lis* del mercers pro domo Cariag sua	vj d.

...Et solut*um* Ioh*anni* hankie ald*ermanno* p*ro* toga Ric*ardi* veale officiar*ii* Ciui*tatis* p*redicti* p*er* mand*atum* p*redicti* maior*is* xxiiij s. iiij d. Et solut*um* Senescall*o* del sadlers pro campanilla sua p*er* mand*atum* maior*is* vj s. viij d....

36/ Cariag: *for* Cariagii

Et solut*um* Thome Gillam pro saltac*io*n*e* sua voc*ata* daunseinge lud⟨.⟩ vocat*o* morris dawns ad vigili*am* *san*c*t*i Ioh*ann*is Baptiste vlt*imam* pre̅terit*am* vj s. viij d....

Bowyers’, Fletchers’, Coopers’, and Stringers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f 10v *(20 November–20 November)*

...	
It*em* payd for dressing the singne on medsomer Eve to william fromond	xij d.
It*em* payd for a peare of gloves to the child	viij d.
It*em* spent wher the child was drest	ij d.
It*em* spent in the aldermans house	ij d.
It*em* for Inkle	ij d.
It*em* for dressing the bridell and for the lone of the sadle clothe	vj d.
It*em* payd to the cryer at the bars	j d.
It*em* to the prisoners at the Castell	ij d.
It*em* to the prisoners at the northgate	ij d.
...	
It*em* for a quart of sacke at the bringing home of the boye	vj d.
It*em* spent on thomas Radford desyring his good will for the childe in Robert Annions house	iiij d.
It*em* spent on the co*m*pany on midsomer Eve	iiij s.
...	

Cordwainers’ and Shoemakers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 70v *(11 November 1575–11 November 1576) (Expenses)*

...	
It*em* geven the mynstrell*es* on martens even	xij d.
...	
It*em* geven the mynstrell at edward yong*es* denner	viij d.
...	

f 72v *(11 November 1576–11 November 1577)*

...	
Item payde the mynstrell at harre young*es* drinkinge	xx d.
...	
Item payde Willyam Richarson on mydsomer even	j d.
Item payde Robarte leche for payntinge the banner	ij s. iiij d.
Item payde the presoner*es* in the castell	vj d.
Item payde the presoner*es* in the north gate	vj d.

36/ young*es*: *5 minims in* MS

Item payde the menstrell*es* the same nyghte	ij s. vj d.
Item payde the chyllde that Rode before the company	xviij d.
Item payde for horsse bredd to the horsse	ij d.
Item payde for bereage of the gleves	ij d.
Item payde for the gleves	iiij s.
Item geven the menstrell*es* in oure allderman Inc*es* howsse	xvj d.
…	
Item geven shuurlocke the menstrell at young*es* drinkinge	vj d.
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 19 *(25 March 1577–25 March 1578)*

…	
It*em* payd for a peare of gloves for the boye that did Ryd vpone mydsomer even	iij d.
It*em* geven to a boye to ffeche a chene for the boye that did Ryd vpone mydsomer even	iiij d.
It*em* geven to the cryer at the bares	iij d.
It*em* geven to the presoneres in the castell	iiij d.
It*em* geven to the presoneres in the northe gatte	ij d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrell to goo a ffore vs vpvne mydsomer even	xij d.
…	
It*em* payd for a pere of Red lether soes to the boye that dyd Ryd	x d.
It*em* geven to a boye that dyd Lead the horse one mydsomer even and for bred to the horse	iiij d.
…	
It*em* payd for a potell of secke at sheuentones dener	xiiij d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrelles at the same dener	xvj d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [65] *(18 October–18 October)*

…	
Item payd to W*illia*m Rych*ard*son at the barres	j d.
Item to the prysoners at the castell	ij d.
Item to the prysoners at the northgate	ij d.
Item payd for iiij pott*es* of alle at wyllyam framwayes vppon midsomer euen before the wache was vppon the shepert*es* and other*es*	iiij d.

24/ soes: *for* shoes

Item to a mynstrell to goe before vs vj d.
Item payd in our Aldermans howsse to make vppe the shott vppon mydsomer Euen xij d.
Item for payntyng the stylltes [vj d.]
…
Item to the ij shepert*es* for going vppon the Styltes xx d.
…

f [66v]
…
Robert Waytt is fyned for that he did promysse the Company that his man shuld goe vppon the Styltes vppon mydsomer eueen ‸⌈1577⌉ and keptt bothe his man and the Styltes from vs And went in to the Ile of man w*ith* them And [⟨…⟩] he [⟨…⟩] caused vs to be at xviij d. more charg*es* vntyll we had neded xij d.
…

AC **Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts** BL: Harley MS 2054
f 21 *(1 July–30 June)*
…
of our sister hancocke for the please xv d. of Rob*er*t Crockett xv d. of Ric*hard* locker xv d.
of 2 smythes in hanbridge for the please ij s. viij d.
…
of Io*hn* Andro for please xv d.

f 21v *(Payments)*
…
to 3 mynstrell vpon St Loye Ieuen at our Ald*erman* stokens ix d.
…
for pott sack & pott clar*et* at Tho*mas* locker dinner xx d. to weytes xij d. to other minstrells 4 d.
…
for horsebred when I went to borow gere for the child to ride before vs 4 d.
for lace pynns & threed to stych the Iuells 4 d.
for dressinge our signe ij s. vj d.
for hose & showes for child xiiij d.
for gloues for child & footman v d.
on midsomer eue for 3 pott bere 3 pott Ale vij d.
to Cryer j d. Spent in gatharing our play mony xviij d. prisoners at Castell iij d.

at norgate ij d. to the mynstrells ij s.
payd an ouerplus at Ald*erman* mounforts on midsomer eue xvj d.
…

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 30/71

f [1]* *(24 June)*

…

Howell Willin exa*min*ed where he dwelleth saith vij miles from Ludlow at A place called Broughton exa*mine*d vpon what occas*i*on he ⟨..⟩m to this City saith mynding to travell t⟨…⟩ hollywell to seek help for A sore foote th⟨…⟩ hath/ exa*mine*d by what way he cam*e* saith th⟨…⟩ Shrosbury & Whitchurch & soe from thens to this City/ ex*amine*d when laste he cam*e* from Ludlow saith ij daies paste/ exa*mine*d what mone⟨.⟩ he brought from hom w*i*th hym saith vj s. exa*mine*d why he com*e* this far out of his Iorney saith he heard [the] of the plaies here & therefore cam*e* hith*er*/…

1577–8

A ***Mayors List 3*** BL: Harley MS 2057

f 29v *(11 October–10 October)*

…

Restored the auntient Custom of midsomer wach

…

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125

f 41* *(11 October–10 October)*

…

Alsoe he entertayned. the Earle of Darbie. and his sonne ffardinando. Lorde Strange, two nightes at his howse he caused the Sheappeardes playe to be played at the hie Crosse/ w*i*th other Trivmphes one the Roode Deey.

°the scollers of the freescole also playd a comody before them at m*aster* maiors howse°

…

AC ***Mayors List 7*** BL: Harley MS 2133

f 44* *(11 October–10 October)*

…

In Iulie the Erle of Darbie ye Lord strange w*i*th many others Came to this Citie and were honorablie receaued by the Maior and Citizens. The sheppards play was plaied at the high Crosse and other Tryumphs on the Roods eye…

…

8, 12/ Ludlow: *Ludlow, Shropshire*
9/ Broughton: *Broughton, Shropshire*
10/ Hollywell: *Holywell, Flintshire, Wales*
11/ Shrosbury: *Shrewsbury, Shropshire*
11/ Whitchurch: *Whitchurch, Shropshire*
13/ ij daies paste: *22 June 1577*
27–32m/ the scollers … howse: *in RH II's hand*

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 13v *(11 October–10 October)*

...

Henrye Earle of darbye: with his sonne. fardinando. Lo*rd* Strange. Came to this Cittye in August. and was honorably received. by the mayor into his howse and did lye there two Night*es*: mr parvise Scollers: playd A Commodie out of the book of Terence before hym. The Shepeards playe played at the hie Crosse. with other Trivmphes vpon. the Rode eye, Alsoe the two Sheriffes: had bene the mayor prenteses in form*er* tyme/ M*aste*r Maior. A cittizin borne./

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2
p 182 *(25 November–25 March) (Extraordinary expenses)*

...

Ite*m* the watchema*n* to waite vppon the maio*r* iij night*es* in Christmas	xij d.

...

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings
BI: V.1578–9 Visitation Papers: Chester, answers
f [2]* *(12 July) (Responses of Thomas Parvise, grammar school teacher)*

Taken at the archbishop's visitation

...

...To the tenth he sayeth y*a*t the Porter Edward Griffith and Pears hewes tayler tould him that francis Canon doctor of phisicke (as he nameth himself) begat one Alice Tutty widowe w*ith* child & gave her a box of confectione to destroy it. Whervppon they arested ‸⌈him⌉. Againe Iane man wief to w*illia*m man M*aste*r of arte male audit. w*hi*ch infamie she daily confirmeth as I credibly heare by drinkinge, diceing, dauncinge, swearinge and royotinge: so contagious & troublesome a neighbo*ur* that w*ith*in this twoe or three yeares some bloud hath bene shead for her and manslaughter like to have bene, and the quiet have hardly escaped. Concerning w*hi*ch woman I doubt not but you finde such as can speake to their knowledge: amonge whom Edward griffith portor ought to say somewhat of the yong man y*a*t her Houseband required him to take w*i*th her one morninge. About w*hi*ch time it was com*m*unly reported y*a*t she was shamfully burned were it so or no yo*u* have to examine Omphrey Snedes wief of Litleton, Iane Sedgewike, and Margaret man.

...

Bowyers’, Fletchers’, Coopers’, and Stringers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [12] *(20 November–20 November)*

…	
It*em* spent in getting the good will of the childs parents to ryde before vs on midsomer eve	vij d.
It*em* spent in gathering custome	ij d.
It*em* paid for a payre of gloves to the child	iij d.
It*em* paid for a payre of shues	vij d.
It*em* for a payre of hose	xij d.
It*em* for the hyre of a sadell cloth	iiij d.
It*em* to him that lead the horse	iiij d.
It*em* to the cryer	j d.
It*em* to the p*ri*soners at the castell	iiij d.
It*em* to the p*ri*soners at the northgate	ij d.
It*em* spent at the dressing of the boy	iij d.
It*em* for Inkle to dresse the horse	j d.
It*em* spent on midsomer eve gathering custom	ij d.
…	

Cordwainers’ and Shoemakers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 73 *(11 November 1576–11 November 1577) (Expenses)*

…	
Item payde the mynstrll*es* on martens even	xx d.
…	

f 74v* *(11 November 1577–11 November 1578)*

…	
In primis geven vnto the wayte men at harre young*es* denner	xvj d.
…	
Item geven the presoner*es* in the northgate y*a*t day wee dranke wi*th* wyllyam symcocke in the northegate	viij d.
…	
Item geven to the beriage of the gleves	ij d.
Item payde for the gleves	iiij s.
Item geven the wheete men on shrofte thursday	xvj d.
…	
Item payd the cryer on mydsomer even	j d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the castell	vj d.
Item geven to the presoner*es* in the northgate	viij d.

23/ mynstrll*es*: *for* mynstrelles

35/ shrofte thursday: *13 February 1577/8*

Item payde Robarte leche	ii s. vj d.
Item payde the mynstrell*es* on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item payde the chyllde that Rode before the occupacc*i*on	xviij d.
Item payde for horsse bredd to the horsse	ij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [67] *(18 October–18 October)*

…

I*tem* furste for mydsomer euen for buckeram to set the Armes vppon	iiij d. [xij d.]
It*em* a payer of gloues	ij d.
It*em* for dressynge the boye	iij d.
It*em* at the barres	[ii] j d.
It*em* for the castell	ij d.
It*em* at the northgate	ij d.
It*em* to the mynstrell	vj d.
It*em* spentt vppon the mynstrell	ij d.
It*em* for horse bread for the boyes horsse	ij d.
[It*em* payd for Ryc*hard* dobes charges]	

…

AC *Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2054

f 22 *(30 June 1577–6 July 1578)*

…

Spent on mr bauand requestinge his sonne to ryd at midsomer wach vj d.
for tryminge the banner vj d.

…

the rest ordnary dutyes for midsomer

…

1578–9

A *Mayors List 9* BL: Additional MS 29777

mb [13]* *(10 October 1578–16 October 1579)*

…

In this yeare the said Sheriffe David Mountforde dyd wynne the Standerd on the Roode Eye on Shrofte Tuesdaye … Also the Earle of Derby, the Lorde mountegle & the Lorde Strange came to Chester who were by ye said maior well enterteynd

…

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2

p 210 *(25 November–25 March) (Extraordinary expenses)*

...

It*em* to the watch ma*n* to waite on the Maior & sheriffe three nightes in Christmas	xij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [13] *(20 November–20 November)*

...

It*em* payed at Rycchart sawndars dyn*n*er ffor a pottell of wyn	xv d.
It*em* payed at the same dyn*n*er to the mynstrel*es*	xij d.

...

f [13v]

...

It*em* payed at the aldermane*s* on midsomer Ewyne one the compa*n*ye	iiij s.
It*em* payed ffor the borrowynge of the horsse & dressynge of hyme	x d.
It*em* payed to the pryssonere*s* on mydsomar Ewene	vj s.
It*em* payed ffor the bowes hosse & sewesse & a payere of glowes	xij d.
It*em* payed to the you*n*ge mane *ya*t stayed the baye apone the horsse	iiij d.
It*em* payed at wyllyam penyee*s* dyn*n*er to the myn*n*strel*es*	xij d.
It*em* payed at thomas gardenars dyn*n*er to the mynstrel*es*	xij d.
It*em* payed at Raffe conpares at a wedynge to the mynstrel*es*	iiij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 75 *(11 November 1577–11 November 1578) (Expenses)*

...

Item payde the wheetemen & shurlocke	xx d.
Item spente on mertens even	viiij s.

...

f 77 *(11 November 1578–11 November 1579)*

...

In primis payde the mynstrell*es* on martens day	xviij d.

...

Item payde the mynstrell*es* at Roger chantres drincking	iij s.

. . .

Item payde the mynstrell*es* at thomas newbett*es* drincking	viij d.
Item payde the mynstrell*es* at the ij bockoses drinckynge	vj d.
Item payde for the gleves	iiij s.
Item for the berrage of them	ij d.
Item payde the menstrell*es* at gutted	xij d.

. . .

f 77v

. . .

Item for dressynge the banner & the berrecche	xviij d.
Item payde the presoner*es* in the castell	vj d.
Item payde to the presoner*es* in the northegate	iiij d.
Item pade the mynstrell*es* on mydsomer ever	ij s. vj d.
Item payde the chyllde that Rode	xviij d.
Item payde the horsse bredd	iiij d.

. . .

Item payde the crier at the barres	j d.

. . .

Item payd the mynstrell*es* at the shirreffes	vj d.
Item payde the menstrell*es* at Roger chantrell*es* dynner	xvj d.
Item payd the mynstrell*es* at petr bockosos dynner	xvj d.
Item payde the tomler that day	ij s.

. . .

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

ff 22–2v *(25 March 1579–25 March 1580)*

. . .

It*e*m geven to the minstrerells at the same gouse svttinge	vj d.

. . .

It*e*m payed for a peare of gloues for the boye that dyd Ryde at mydsomer	iij d. |
It*e*m payed for a peare of sheues to the chylld that dyd Ryde one mydsomer even	vij d.
It*e*m payed for a peare of howse to hime that dyd Ryde	vj d.
It*e*m payed for hyer of velvete that made the chyllds clocke	xviij d.
It*e*m geven to the minstrells one mydsomer euen	ij s. vj d.
It*e*m payed for mendinge the staffe	ij d.

7/ gutted: *2 March 1578/9*
15/ ever: *for* even
30/ minstrerells: *for* minstrells

It*e*m geuen to the cryere at the bares	iij d.
It*e*m geven to the presoneres in the castell and the northgate	vij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [69] *(18 October–18 October)*

…	
payd to w*illia*m Ryc*hard*son att the barres vppon mydsomer Euen	j d.
payd to the prysoners at the castell	ij d.
payd to the prysoners at the northgate	ij d.
payd to a mynstrell the same tyme	vj d.
…	

Inventory of John Cowper, Alderman CCALS: WS 1579
mb [4] *(15 July) (In the hall)*

…	
It*e*m a paire of virginalls at	xx s.
…	

1579–80

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [14v] *(20 November–20 November)*

…	
It*em* payed to Roger fframo ffor payentynge of the banere	xij d.
…	
It*em* payed to the man y*a*t helde the chylde on ye horsse	iiij d.
It*em* payed to the onower of the horsses in horsse brede	iiij d.
It*em* payed ffor a pottell of wyne to brynge mr gam*m*well	xij d.
It*em* gywene to the presoner*es* on mydsomar Ewene	vj d.
…	
It*em* spent on mydsomer Ewen on the compeny	ij s.

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 78v *(11 November–11 November) (Expenses)*

…	
In primis payde at necolas bockeses dynner to the mynstrell*es*	ij s. ij d.
…	
Item to the mynstrell*es* at Richard tyftons & edward bennet*es* drinckinge	v d.
…	

Item for the gleves & the berricche of them	v s. iiij d.
Item to the wheatemen at guttes in oure allderman Inc*es*	xvj d.

...

Item to the menstrell*es* on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item for a pottell secke the same nyghte	xij d.
Item payde the presoner*es* of the castell	vj d.
Item to the presoner*es* at the northegate	vj d.

...

Item payde the chyllde that Rode on mydsomer even	xviij d.
Item for a horsse the same nyghte	iiij d.
Item to the crier at the barres	j d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 23 *(25 March 1580–25 March 1581) (Payments)*

...

It*em* payed at mydsomer even for a peare of hose shewes and gloves for the boye that dyd Ryde	xvj d.
It*em* geven the cryer at the bares	iij d.
geven to the pressoneres in the castell and northegate	vij d.
geven to the mynstrelles to goe a fore our compenye	ij s. vj d.
payed for a potell of secke to the compenye one mydsomer even	xij d.

...

payed for a potell of alle at the aldermane Kerrycke one mydsomer even	ij d.
payed for the hyer of velvete to make the chylld a clocke	xviij d.
payed for ij potelles of alle at the aldermane taskeres one mydsomer even vnto the compenye	iiij d.
geven to the boye that dyd lead the horse	ij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [72] *(18 October–18 October)*

...

It*em* spent aboute the companyes ⌜bysenes in⌝ muney our aldermans a geneste mydsomer	iiij d.
It*em* on mydsomer euen in the stewardes house for alle	ij d.
It*em* at the bares at the castell and the northe gate	v d.

2/ guttes: *15 February 1579/80*

26/ mydsomer: *2 minims in MS*

It*em* for the ouer [p] plous of a shotte at our aldermans on mydsomer euen viij d.
It*em* to the mynstrel vj d.
It*em* for goynge one the stiltes vj d.
...

1580–1

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 22
folio a verso* *(7 February)*

7^{mo} feb*ruary* Shroftestewsday

m*aste*r Maior
mr Poole
mr Grene
mr Balle
mr hanky
mr Lea
mr harvy
mr Bellin
mr Ryerson
mr Sheriff Brid
mr Hammer
mr Brerewod
mr Bavand
mr Stiles

The p*er*sons aforesaid addressed their L*ette*rs to mr Peter Warburton esquier declaring the greate abuse of his Man drink water in Cominge to the maior and clayming of him the brode Arrow and fflight aft*er* those games were (among*es* others) differed vntill Sonday next by p*ro*clamac*io*n saing they were his due albeit vnshot for and that this was the daie and *ya*t the maior cold not differ the tyme and that the maior did him wrong yet wold he haue the same w*i*th diu*ers* others p*re*sumpteous and disobedient words and being demaunded by mr grene wheth*er* he knew to whom he spake said he spake to the maior who did him wrongs if he wold not deliu*er* vnto him the said ij gaines and yet not herew*i*th contented thrust him self among*es* the Iustic*es* of peace in his going w*i*th covered hed & them sonderd and encownterd w*i*th them and being comaunded by An offic*er* to geve place refused the same oth*er* by comaundem*en*t or dutie/ And shewed his m*aste*r that for his sake his man was p*ar*doned of his impris*onmen*t at that tyme and praied his opinion towching his said man

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [15v] *(20 November–20 November)*
...
In prymys for dressynge o*u*r sygne o medsomer even ij s. iiij d.

more lede downe for dressynge the boye	vj d.
more for Apeare of gloves to the boye	jjj d.
more for horstebred and aboye to dresse the horse	vj d.
more to the cryer	j d.
more geven the prysoners	iiij d.
more geven the prysoners at the norethgate	iij d.
more pead the charges of o*ur* companye at wyllyam nyclas howse	xix d.
more for a man to Attend vpon the boye	vj d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 79 *(11 November 1579–11 November 1580) (Expenses)*

…	
Item spente on martens eve	xiiij s.
Item payde the menstrell that nyghte	xxij d.
…	

f 80v* *(11 November 1580–11 November 1581)*

…	
Item payde for the gleves	iiij s. viij d.
Item spend at the berynge of them	ij d.
Item payde the waytemen at gutted	xvj d.
…	
Item geven maystris powell a quarte of wyne for borroenge a horse on mydsomer even	v d.
…	
Item payde the crier at the barres on mydsomer even	j d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the castell & in the northe gate the same nyght	xij d.
Item geven maystris powell*es* man for waytinge on the horse that nyghte	vj d.
Item payde the myllstrel*es* the same nyghte to playe before vs	ij s. vj d.
Item payde for a pottell of secke the same nyghte	xij d.
…	
Item payde for a payre of bot*es* for the chillde that Rode on mydsom ⌜even⌝	xij d.

23/ gutted: *6 February 1580/1*
38/ mydsom: *2 minims in* MS *for final* m; *for* mydsomer; *abbreviation mark omitted*

Item payde for leadinge the horsse on mydsomer even	iiij d.
Item geven maystr powell a quarte of wyne to hys wellcome whom	v d.
Item payde Robarte halewud for Reparinge & dressinge the banner	ij s. iiij d.
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 24 *(25 March 1581–25 March 1582) (Disbursements)*

…	
for a payre of shooes	vj d.
…	
for a paire of gloves	iiij d.
…	
To the p*re*soners	iiij d.
To the mynstrells	xx d.
…	
spent at Iames Kempes dyn*er* in wyne	xij d.
to the mynstrells	vj d.
…	
to the p*re*soners on midsom*er* eve	iiij d.
…	

1581–2

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [16] *(20 November–20 November)*

…

that we lead downe at midsomer Euen as followethe

for a pere of hose to the boye	viij d.
It*em* for aper of showes	viij d.
It*em* to dresse the boye in silk & semet	iij d.
It*em* for the horse hire	vj d.
It*em* to hym that lad hym	vj d.
It*em* for a pere of gloues to the boye	iij d.
It*em* for a pottle of sake in the stewart*es*	xij d.
It*em* for the dressinge of the signe	xviii d.
It*em* to the crier	j d.
It*em* for bere on midsomer in my alderma*ns*	x d.
It*em* for quart of wyne	iij d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 81 *(11 November 1580–11 November 1581) (Expenses)*

. . .

°Item paied the weatemenne one marten evene	xvj d.°

. . .

f 82v* *(11 November 1581–11 November 1582)*

. . .

Item geven the wheate men at the stewarte lynglays howsse on martens day	vj d.

. . .

Item payde for the gleves at gutted	iiij s. viij d.
Item payde for the beriage of the gleves	iiij d.
Item geven the wheate men at oure alldeman Inces on thursday aftr guttedday	ij s.

. . .

Item payde thomas Richerson on mydsomer even at the barr*es*	j d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the castell	vj d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the northegate	vj d.
Item geven the mynstrell*es* on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item geven maystr powell man for hys paynes	vj d.
Item geven maystr powell a quarte of sacke to hys wellcome whom	vj d.
Item spente at Rauffe edggys howsse on mydsomer even	xiij d.
Item payde for a pottell secke at oure allderman layes howsse on mydsomer even	xij d.
Item payde Robarte halewudd for mendinge the banner	xij d.
Item geven thomas harper a payre of shoys & a payre of pompes	x d.
Item geven wyllyam lov for leadynge the horsse	iiij d.

. . .

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [75v]* *(18 October–18 October)*

. . .

Ite*m* payd edward dobye for goinge on the styltes	xij d.
Ite*m* payd vnto the menstrell	vj d.
Ite*m* payd to the presoneres	iiij d.
Ite*m* payd to the Cryer	j d.

. . .

12/ gutted: *26 February 1581/2*

15/ thursday aftr guttedday: *1 March 1581/2*

1582–3

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2

p 256 *(25 December–25 March)*

…

Imp*ri*mis p*ai*d the xiiijth of Ianuary to the watchman attendinge on the maior at Christmas tyme	x ⟨…⟩

…

p 258* *(25 March–24 June)*

It*e*m payd the xiiijth of maye vnto Mr Rogers whiche he gaue to the Earle of Essex players when they woulde haue played in M*aste*r Deanes howse	ij s.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [18] *(20 November–20 November)*

…

It*em* at willi*am* Congles diner to the mintrels	xij d.
…	
It*em* for dressing the singe	ij s.
It*em* for the boyes house & showes that Ride	xviij d.
It*em* paid for dressing the boye	xvj d.
It*em* paid to the Criere	j d.
It*em* for a peare of glowes to the boye	iij d.
It*em* paid to the towe Iayles	vij d.
It*em* to towe men that did atende vpon the horse & the child	viij d.
It*em* [p] paid for the hors & horse breid	vj d.
It*em* spent on the compeny on midsomer evene	ij s.
It*em* at Raff copers diner in wyne	xviij d.
It*em* to the minstrel at the same diner	ij *(blank)*

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 83 *(11 November 1581–11 November 1582)* *(Expenses)*

…

Item geven the wheate men on martens even	xvj d.

…

19/ mintrels: *for* minstrels

32/ minstrel: l *written over* s

f 84v* *(11 November 1582–11 November 1583)*

…	
Item payde for the gleves	iiij s. viij d.
Item payde the bereche of the gleves	iiij d.
Item geven the wheate men for plaeng in the co*m*men hall & in the alldermans	ij s. vj d.
…	
Item geven the waytemen at Rauffe alyns drinckynge	xvj d.
…	
Item payde to Robarte ^⌜lethe⌝ for our banner	xl s.
…	
Item payde for hallffe a yarde of taffata	v s.
Item payde for a yarde of yallo cotton	vj d.
Item payede for a payre of gloves for the childe	iij d.
…	
Item geven the presoner*es* in the castell	vj d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the northegate	vj d.
…	

f 85

Item payde for a pottell of sacke at our alldermans	viiij d.
Item geven the menstrell for playeng before vs on mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item payde for horsse bred	iiij d.
Item geven maystris hope a quarte of wyne when she broght her sonne	iiij d.
Item payde for makyng the mandelion breches & bownyng the childe	v d.
Item payde Rauffe alyn for a payre of buskens for the childe	ij s.
Item payde the foteman	iiij d.
Item payde for a sokett to staye the banner	ij d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Shrovetide Order Company MS
single mb *(19 March)*

…

Wheras the Aldermen and Steward*es* of the Occupac*i*on of Shomakers, within the Cittie of Chester, Aswell for theym sellues, As for their wholle Company. Haue exhibited ther Petic*i*on, againste the Company of Sadlers, within the same. ffor that the saide Sadlers, haue of late daies, vsurped and presumed, bothe to offer, vppon the Rode dee, their gleves and presentmente, yerelie as to goe, b⟨.⟩fore theim, vppon Shrovetewsday, al*ia*s Gotid*es* Tewsday, Contrary to an Order therof made in the tyme of the Maioraltie of Henrie Gee, the Tennth daie of Ianuary Anno Regni Henrici Octaui nuper Regis Anglie &c xxxij^{o}. The same order is nowe, throwlie and deliberatlie, Considered of, And allsoe the vsage therevppon well remembred, And for Asmuchas yt thereby plainlie appeareth, that the saide Company of Sadlers, of late, haue wronged the saide Shomakers therein, to the breach of the saide former order, and great vnquyetnes of the saide Company of Shomakers and evill example of others like offenders/.

Therefore it is nowe ordered, Concluded and fullie agried vppon at this Assemblie, the saide Nynetenth daie of Marche, in the saide xxvth yeare of her Ma*iestes* Raigne, that nowe is, By the saide William Stiles, the Aldermen Sherif*es* and Com*men* Counsile, of the same Cittie, with one wholle voice. Aswell that the saide former order, made in the saide tyme, of the Maioraltie of the saide Henry Gee, shalbe, ratefyed, Confyrmed and allowed, and is hereby ratified, Confyrmed and allowed, in all and every Article, poynte and sentence, therein mencyoned, accordinge to the true meaninge thereof: Asallsoe that it is nowe explayned, and soe ordered, by this whole Assemblie, That by the true meaninge of the saide Order, the saide Company of Shomakers, ought booth, and shall henceforth offer ffyrste vppon the seide Roode dee, their Gleves: Asallsoe goe orderlie, before the saide Company of Sadlers, bothe to the saide Roode Dee as thence, and to the Com*m*on Hall of the saide Cittie, that Tewsdaie, and tw[e]oe daies after, to recreate them sellues, Attending vpon the Maior, for the tyme being and soe to returne in quyet and orderlie mann*er* and sorte, as behooveth, withoute interupc*i*on lett or disturbaunce of the saide Company of Sadlers, or eny one of theim, or eny one of their Successors, vppon the seuerall paynes and ponishement*es*, menc*ione*d in the saide former order Provided allwaies that where by the saide order, there is mencyoned, that all gleves, gift*es*, offering*es* and presentment*es* made vppon the saide Roode dee, the saide Tewsday, shalbe ordered by the saide drapers and Maior and so the Maior laste namyd. It is nowe ordered, for dutie and desente order, That all suche Gift*es*, gleves, and presentement*es* shalbe ordered by the Maior of the saide Cittie for the tyme beinge, and drapers, Accordinge to the true Meaninge of the saide former order, And that the Maior shalbe and ought of Right and dutie, to be fyrste namyd and recyted in respecte, of his aucthoritie, and governemente (enye thinge in the saide former order Contayned, to the Contrary therof in eny wise not withstanndinge./.
Copia Concordat*a* cum Originale, et examinata Per me. Will*elmu*m Knight Cl*er*ic*um* Penticij Ciui*tatis* Cestrie

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 6 *(1 August–1 August) (Payments)*

…	
It*e*m payed for the charges of our corporac*i*on as well for the sealle as for the drawinge and empossinge withe the fote for the same and our charges vppone mydsomer even	xlvj s. ij d.
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 27v *(25 March 1583–25 March 1584) (Payments)*

…	
payed more for a peare of gloves for the boye that dyd Ryd a fore our compenye	iiij d.
payed for thryd and pynes one mydsomer even. to sowe the chylldes clothes vpone hime	j d.
…	
payed for the boyes shewes at mydsomer	viij d.
payed to the cryer at the bares	j d. ob.
geven to the presoneres at the castell iiij d. and to the presoneres at the northe gate iij d. some is	vij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [77v]* *(18 October–18 October)*

…	
payd at the barres vppon mydsomer Euen	j d.
att the castell	ij d.
at the northegate	ij d.
to a mynstrell	vj d.
…	
payd for the charges vppo mydsomer euen at our Aldermans howsse	iiij s.
…	
payd to Edward dobe for goinge vppon the Styltes	xij d.
…	

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 34/48

f [1]* *(2 January)*

…

Iohn clerk *ser*u*a*nt to the said lady Willabey exa*mine*d towch*ing* the said

---

32/ vppo: *for* vppon

affray saith that certaine gent*lemen* this afternone cam to his said ladys howse & enquired where she was & saith Roger Harpur now hurt seru*an*t to the said lady Willaby Answered that she was at mr Cot*es* howse and then saith one of mr glasures sones asked whether he the sam*e* Harpur was the p*er*son that cam*e* from his lady to mr glasur vpon A messauge & Harpur said he was and then mr glasurs sonne asked Harpur whether he was the p*er*son that beknaved them and Harpur said he was the p*er*son that soe [said] ^⌈did⌉ being asked where the gent*lemen* were when they demanded the said quest*ions* of the said Harpur saith at the p*ar*lor dore ex*amin*ed wheth*er* the gent*lemen* drew there wepons in the howse saith they drew their wepons [in the porche at the said Harpur & at this exa*mina*te also but saith noe hurt was then don*e* ^⌈in the porch⌉] ⌈first in the house & did hurt this exa*mina*te & horpur⌉ [⌈& as⟨.⟩d⟨...⟩⌉] And saith thens the gent*lemen* beinge in n*u*mb*er* vj whereof iii had wepons dep*ar*ted towards mr cot*es* where my lady was & saith Harpur went after [them] ⌈out of the howse⌉ but where or how after they met this exa*mina*te knowth not and saith that thes Harpur said to this exam*ina*te that he wold goe shew my lady how he had ben vsed & bade this exa*mina*te kepe the howse & soe went out of the howse & furth*er* saith *ya*t yesterday night ye gent*lemen* cam to the said house & shoke the gates & wold haue Com*e* into the house & being demanded whoe they were *ya*t wold Disturb my lady *ya*t time of the night having taken her chamb*er* redy to go to bed they answered they were warwick clownes

+

(signed) wyllyam*us* Styles maior

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 34/46
single sheet–single sheet verso* *(21 January)*

Affr*aia* sup*er* Rog*er*um Harpur/ xviij die Ianuarij Anno R*e*gine Elizab*ethe* xxv^{to}
Sworne 21 Ianuary/
Will*ia*m Ball of the Citie of Chester gent*leman* Exa*min*ed towchinge the sai⟨.⟩ Affray: saith that he second daie of this moneth he this exa*mina*te among*es* other*es* diuers At mr w*illia*m Glasiors howse, whoe at after dinn*er* desyered this exa*mina*te to goe to the Ladie Willibys howse in compeny of mr Iohn Hanky or mr w*illia*m Bird (beinge both Alderme*n* & Iustic*es* of peace w*i*thin the said Citie) to move her Ladishipp towchinge A message she sent vnto the same mr Glasur that morninge by one of her seru*an*t*es* w*hi*ch this exa*mina*te was contented to doe, But saith the gent*lemen* whom the said message concerned viz. mr George Salusbury mr Iohn Glasur, mr Phillip Done mr

---

23/ +: *John Clerk's personal mark*
31/ Sworne 21 Ianuary: *underlined*
33/ he^{1}: *for* the

Iohn Golburne and mr Hugh Glasure w*ith* thes then beinge p*re*sent, desyered mr w*illia*m glasur neth*er* to send this exa*minate* mr hanky nor mr Bird to her L*adiship* praying that they them selues might goe to her Ladiship because she had mistaken their well meaninge & curtesie to her, in A maske the night before/ hopinge that when they had shewed them selues to her L*adiship* & there honest pastime & curtesie w*hi*ch they ment towards her: she wold be satisfied and haue them fully excused/ w*hi*ch mr w*illia*m Glasur well liked of and gave the gent*lemen* good counsell how they shull behave them selues towards her Ladiship in these woords: gent*lemen* yow goe to a ladie, whoe p*er*adventure will vse some [hard] ⌜hoat⌝ speches vnto yow: but whatsoever she saith but yow vse yo*ur* curtesy and follow the counsaile of St Paull to forbeare w*ith* pacience, towardes A ladie And hervpon (this exa*minat*e saith) the said gentleme*n* wente to her Ladiships howse but how they behaved them selues ther or howe they ther were vsed this ex*aminat*e knoweth not/ And furth*er* this exa*minat*e saith that shortly after the suche dep*ar*ture of the said gent*lemen* toward*es* her ladiships howse, worde cam*e* into the said mr w*illia*m glasur*es* howse (where this exa*minat*e mr hanky mr w*illia*m bird & diu*ers* oth*ers* then were) by whom this exa*minate* knoweth not/ that the said mr Iohn glasure was sore hurt or slaine and some others of the rest of the said suche gent*lemen*/ wherevpon diu*ers* of the compeny then beinge in mr w*illia*m glasurs howse, ran furth in all haste (amonge*s* Whom this exa*minat*e the said Mr hanky and mr w*illia*m Bird went togeth*er* to se the Quenes Ma*iesties* peace kept (the said mr hanky & mr Bird w*ith*out wepons in ther gownes and this exa*minate* w*ith* his Cloke and a smale fauchen w*hi*ch he vsually weareth And saith that When this exa*minat*e mr hanky & mr Bird were com*e* out of mr w*illia*m glasurs gate and againste St Iohns churche Dore: they & this exa*minat*e | p*er*ceived a man comynge out from the howse of Mr Coot*es* havinge his cloke wrapped vpon his Lefte Arme and A Longe sword or rapier on his right Arme (makinge greate haste towards one of mr w*illia*m Glasures men in speakinge these woords: what is the matter: what is the matter/ And notw*ith*standing that the said Mr hanky and mr Bird & this exa*minat*e charged the said man whose name this exa*minat*e is let to vnd*er*stand is Harley heron: the same harly and a yonge fellow one of mr w*illia*m Glasures men were at [strok*es*] blowes (the said harly w*ith* his sworde and cloke and thoth*er* w*ith* A short staff or bill to this exa*minat*es knowledg) And saith y*a*t as the yonge man gave back by the blow & thrust of the said herne And this exa*minate* havinge his cloke vpon thon Arme and his fauchen drawen in the other) this exa*minat*e entred and brak the blow and thruste and havinge full regard and eie of the said herne & of his enterprise and erneste minde to hurt: kept him

23–4/ (the said … weareth: *closing parenthesis omitted*
29–30/ (makinge … matter: *closing parenthesis omitted*
37/ havinge … other): *opening parenthesis omitted*

from his desier both of hurtinge yong mr Iohn glasur and others and of beinge hurt him self (as far furth as this exa*minat*e cold:) w*hi*ch at that tyme (this exa*minat*e saith) suffised and stode in good stede to all p*ar*ties And furth*er* this exa*minat*e saith that towchinge the hurtinge of the lady willybys man harpur/ how in what sort or by whom he was hurt or when he cam into the churche yord this exa*minat*e is ignorant savinge that he hath heard that A gent*lemen* one Spurstow did hurt him and gave him A greate wounde vpon the point of his shuld*er* And furth*er* this exa*minat*e supposeth that by the boldnes and Attempt of the said herne in com*m*inge furth of the said Coat*es* howse: the Laste hurt of the said harpur was: p*re*suming overmuche of the said harne to be in his aide/

Will*i*am Balle
Wyllyam Styles Maior

1583–4

AC **_Audited City Treasurers' Accounts_** BL: Harley MS 2173

f 91 *(11 October–10 October) (Disbursements)*

...

Citty waytes for the wayte men or citty waytes gownes v li. xvj s.

...

f 91v

...

maiors mount to Tho*mas* pole for payinting or triminge m*aste*r maiors mount xxiij s. 4 d.

to citty drumer xij d.

morris dancers to the morris dau*n*cers vj s. viij d.

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/2

p 292 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Inprimis paid the 27 daye of December to Hughe Skinner for a watchman attendinge on the maior in Christmas time xij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [19] *(20 November–20 November)*

...

It*em* payed ffor wyne at thomas hitthi*es* dyner xij d.

5/ he^{1}: h *altered from* y

It*em* payed to the mynstrell*es* at the same dyner	vj d.
…	
It*em* payed at the borowynge of the boye	iiij d.
It*em* payed at the bownynge of the boye	xvj d.
It*em* payed ffor a payer of hosse to the boye	x d.
It*em* payed ffor a payer of shewes	x d.
It*em* payed at the bryngyng of the chylde hom	iiij d.
It*em* payed ffor ledyng of the hores & houldynge the chylde	viij d.
It*em* payed ffor hores brid to the hores	iiij d.
It*em* payed the pryssonares	vj d.
…	
It*em* payed ffor the dryssyng of the syne	xviij d.
…	
It*em* payed ffor the compenye on mydsomare Ewen	ij s. vj d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 85 *(11 November 1582–11 November 1583) (Expenses)*

…	
Item payde for martens even	xiiij s.
Item geven the wheatemen	xviij d.
…	

f 86 *(11 November 1583–11 November 1584)*

…	
Item payde for the gleves	v s.
…	
Item geven the wheatemen at gutted	ij s.
…	
Item payde the mynstrell*es* on midsomer even	ij s. vj d.
Item payde to the presoner*es* in the castell & the presoner*es* in the northegate	xij d.
…	
Item for a payre of buskens for the childe that Roode	ij s.
Item for a payre of gloves to hym & makynge his breches	vj d.
Item for a quarte of secke on mydsomer even	vj d.
Item payde the men that whente before vs when the lorde of lesciter came to chester & tendinde the childe	xij d.

29/ gutted: *2 March 1583/4*

41/ tendinde: *for* tendede *or* tendinge

Item payd willyam mason for leadinge the horsse	iiij d.
Item payde for horsse bredd to Mr hurlstons horse	iiij d.
Item payd the crier & for ale at the barres	iij d.

…

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38
ff 9–9v *(1 August–1 August)* *(Payments)*

…

It*e*m payed vnto vj boyes for Caryinge dysaneates a fore our compenye	xiij d.
It*e*m payed for iiij peare of gloves to iiij boyes that dyd Ryd a fore our compenye at ij d. a pese	viij d.
It*e*m payed to iiij foutmen at iiij d. a pese	xvj d.
It*e*m payed for a peare of gloves to the womane that dyd Ryde afor our compenye	iij d.
geven to heare for heare paynes	iiij d.
geven to a mane to a tend vppone heare horse	iiij d. |
It*e*m payed for dresinge the pye and the horse head	vj d.
spen at the borowinge of the deye manes a parell for hime that dyd lead the womanes horse	[iiij d.] ij d.
payed for borowinge a cussocke for the womane	iiij d.
payed for potes for the womane	xvj d.
payed for iij Canes	vj d.
payed for oure drinkinge a fore the watche and after vppone our compenye	vij s.
payed for wyne to our compenye	vij d.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 28 *(25 March 1584–25 March 1585)* *(Payments)*

…

It*e*m payed for a peare of shewes to the boye that dyd Ryd afore our compenye one mydsomer even	viij d.
payed for a peare of gloves for the same boye	iij d.
spent at will*ia*m Stevensones in ffachinge vp the horse	ij d.
geven to the Cryer at the Bares	j d.
geven to the Wedowe Bovlton	iiij d.
geven to the presoneres at the Castell	iiij d.
geven to the presoneres at the northegate	iij d.
geven to the mynstreles one mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
payed for Wyne one mydsomer for our compenye	xvj d.

…

payed for sowinge the boyes Covte	j d.
payed for a peare of hose for the boye	viij d.
…	
payed for grese for the horse the boye Ryd vppone	ij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [78v] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

…	
payed for a payer of gloues to the child that Rode on mydsomer euen	iij d.
also for a payer of showes to the same child	x d.
geuen to the prissnors at the casstel and northegate	iiij 〈.〉
payed for horse bred on midsomer euen	ij d.
payed to rycherson at the bars	j d.
payed to the mynstrel on mydsomer 〈.〉 euen	vj d.
…	
payed to the mynstrels at thomas Chalners dyner	xij d.
…	

Letter of Christopher Goodman to the Earl of Derby DRO: DD/PP/844

single sheet–single sheet verso* *(16 December)*

The copie of a letrė to the Erle of [dar] darbie

Our humble dutyes to yo*ur* L*ordship* considered: may it please the same to be adu*er*tised, that wheras this Citie hath costomabley bin geven to maintayne sundrye vayne pastance and vnprofitable spectakles as Bayrbait*es*, Bulbaits, Enterludes, °minstrell*es*° Tumblers & suche like not beseeminge good & christian goverment, and thervppon consume and Waste other mens goods and pyke the purses of riche and poore, and Drawe both men & wives, sonnes and daughters, men & maideservants from theire needfull busines at vnseasonable tymes, late in the night, to heare & behould wanton and vayne playes, not without danger of evell, vsually insuinge such assemblies, only to mayntaine a number of Idell and vnprofitable persons in the com*m*on wealth, of no iust and lawefull callinge, warrantizable by the worde, but offencive to god, overchargeable yearly to this com*m*on wealth ‸⸢°one way and other°⸣ to the some of [xl 〈...〉] ⌊°xl li.°⌋ w*hi*ch might be farre better imployed. The inconvenience wherof as it hath byn longe tyme esspied, p*re*ched againste publiquely, and confessed of men of Iudgment in this citie, and som*m*e in office willinge and promisinge redresse, yet partly diswaded by some addicted

29/ minstrell*es*: *written in left margin, to follow after* Enterludes to co⟨.⟩stome, and partly fearinge the displeasure of such noble personages (to whom the aforesaide Bearward*es*, Players, minstrells, and Tumblers doe appertaine and weare theire lyveries) the Citie is very loth to send them awaye w*it*hout such intertainment as these vnprofitable and Idell persons desire, rather then deserve. In considerac*i*on wherof as allso of the good opinion wee doe conceave of yo*ur* L*ordship's* inclinac*i*on to redresse such disorders, wee haue thought good to oppen this our greife vnto the same, most humbly cravinge yo*ur* favorable letter to the maior and his Bretheren of this Citie, Who amongest other noble personages do greatly honor and reverence yo*ur* L*ordship* as theire best and nearest neighboure in all theire honest and iust attemps, to this or the like effect. That as yo*ur* L*ordship* is glade to heare of any good order taken or to be taken by the maior and his Bretheren for the benefite & good gou*ern*ment of this Citie of chester: So yo*ur* L*ordship* would not any of the saide good orders to be stay[n]ed or broken, by any p*er*son or p*er*sons to you belonginge, for feare of any displeasure to aryse therby from your L*ordship* so farreforth as no wronge or iniurie other wayes be extended to any person to yo*ur* L*ordship* appertayninge. By meanes wherof this citie shalbe greatly eased of superfluous & vnprofitable charges and other inconveniences, as, also be imbouldened to deale a like w*it*h other noble mens servants retayninge to theire Lor*dships* for such purposes, tendinge only to theire owne private gaine and incommoditie of many. So shall this | Citie hereby haue iust cause to praye for yo*ur* L*ordship* as most bounde vnto the same. Chester the °xvj° of December An*no* 1583.

Your L*ordship's* humble orators to com*m*and

(signed) Christopher Goodman
(signed) Mr P. *(signed)* Mr G.

AC ***Deeds and Customs Concerning Chester*** BL: Harley MS 2150
f 5v* *(24 December)*

out of the office in mr K*nigh*ts booke

the speech of mr Rob*er*t brerewood Maior 1584 vpon Christmas Eue at the maiors wach but was made by mr *Willia*m Knight then clarke of the pentice and by the sayd maior learned by hart & by him p*ro*nounced: for although he could nether write nor read yet was of exelent memory & very braue & gentile partes otherways:

The homagers or wach beinge Called he Sayd

Stand neere good fellows and heare your charge

Most of you as I vnderstand are such as are well accquinted w*it*h this kind of seruice therfore I will vse but few words at this tyme you rep*re*sent by this your apparances the stalls & places of such hon*oura*bl*e* and wor*shipfu*ll *per*sonages as haue byn called, whos Auncestors & themselues tyme out of mynd rightly haue done this manor of seruice & homage to the maior of this citty for this night and to the sheriffs for the tow next nights, for the better p*re*seruation of this citty and as this manor of seruice first arosse, as I learne in tyme of warrs w*i*th the welch: this citty beinge most endangered by the Enimy at christmas tyme, so it is Contynued of duty for such termes, for that euery Artificer and other p*er*sons in this citty agaynst this holy feast of christmas accustomed to be paynfull and wakfull in their trades & occupations and now theis holly days expect rest and quietnesse, therfore you are to vse yourselues as wachmen hauinge the Care & charge of this citty reffered to you, vnder your lords & m*aste*rs, and diligently and paynfully to shew your selues herin and ouerssee that no hurt or hindrance happen or come to this citty or Inhabitants therof duringe your tyme of wachinge nether by fier nor by any lewd Roges or vacobonds or other disordred p*er*sons in robbinge of shopps stealinge or Conveighinge out of backsides or otherways nor wandringe abrode gamninge drinkinge or disordringe them selues at any vndue tyme, yf you find or know of any such suppresse them, and if you see Iust cause Com̄itt them to ward, so as they may be forth Cominge in the morninge to answare their misdemenares. also I charge you all to behaue your selues trustyly in this seruice as to your dutyes appertayneth & to deuide your selues into seuerall Companeys throughout the Streets & lanes w*i*thin this Citty wherby you may the better acomplish this seruice & w*i*th all if you shall p*er*ceaue any mans children or seruants in any place to vse themselues wantonly or otherways not as they ought or is conuenient or any other p*er*sons disordringe themselues; reforme them ‸⸢in⸣ orderly sort if the shall resist you, vse them as the rest & in this doinge you shall discharge your duties or otherways you endanger thos for whom you now serue, of their Tenures the hould of this citty for this seruice, as also be assured your selues to receaue seuere punishment to be Compelled by body or goods to make recompence for your neglences: (thus leauinge) trustinge you will ‸⸢be⸣ haue your selues like honest men hauinge due regard to this your charge & so farwell.

…

1584–5

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3

p 15 *(25 November–25 December)*

…

It*em* for charg*es* at o*ur* Audyt & dynner vj li. xiij s. iiij d.

31/ neglences: *for* negligences

It*em* to the mvsicions the same daye we had our Dynner	iiij s.

...

p 16 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Inpr*i*mis p*ai*d the xxviijth of December vnto hugh skynner for a watchman attendinge on the maior in Christmas tyme	xij d./

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [20] *(20 November–20 November)*

...

It*em* payed at the borowynge of the boye	iiij d.
It*em* payed at the bow*n*ynge of the boye	x d.
It*em* payed ffor a payere of hosse	viij d.
It*em* payed ffor a payere of shewe*s*	x d.
It*em* payed at the bryngynge home of the chylde	iiij d.
It*em* payed ffor houldynge of the chyld on horssbake	iiij d.
It*em* payed ffor horssebrede to the horsse	iiij d.
It*em* payed to the pryssonar*es*	vj d.
It*em* spynt on the company one mydsomar Ewen	iij s.
It*em* for dressynge of the syne	xvj d.
It*em* ffor a payer of glowes to the boye	iij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 86v *(11 November 1583–11 November 1584) (Expenses)*

...

Item for a pottell secke on martens even	xij d.
Item geven the wheatemen	xviij d.

...

f 87* *(11 November 1584–11 November 1585)*

...

Item geven the two companes of musicions at thomas ball*es* drinckynge	xx d.

...

Item geven the musicions at thomas lenard*es* drinckynge	xviij d.

...

Item payde for the gleves at gutted	v s.
Item payde for the bericche of the gleves	iiij d.
Item geven the wheatemen at gutted at oure allderman Inc*es*	ij s.

. . .

f 87v

. . .

Item for a payre of buskens for the childe at mydsomer	ij s.
Item for a payre of gloves for hym	iiij d.
Item payde for a dosen of horsse bredd to the horsse	iiij d.
Item geven the crier at the barres	j d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the castell	vj d.
Item geven the presoner*es* in the northegate	vj d.
Item payde the mucicions at mydsomer	ij s. vj d.
Item payde the fote man for ledinge the horsse	vj d.
Item geven the taylor for dressinge the childe	iij d.

. . .

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 11* *(1 August–1 August)* *(Receipts)*

. . .

Re*ceived* of the Ale wyffes in the Cittie at mydsomer towardes our wache	vj s. [viij d.] iiij d. ob.

. . .

f 12 *(Payments)*

. . .

It*e*m payed for arisedene and for reperinge of our baner	viij d.
It*e*m payed for potes and for the Cane aganest mydsomer even and for Iron to bynde the cane	ij s. viij d.
It*e*m payed to the womane for Rydinge iij d. and for a peare of gloves for heare vij d.	
It*e*m geven to a mane to Leade heare horse	iiij d.
It*e*m spente in borowinge of a dye manes Cote	ij d.
It*e*m payed for a peire of hose and sves and a peare of gloves for the Chyld that dyd Ryde afore our Companye	xix d.
It*e*m payed to ij men, to a tend vpone the chyld and the horsse and one to Carye the Cvpes	ix d.

1, 3/ gutted: *22 February 1584/5*

32/ ij s.: i *altered from* v

It*em* spent at Insses withe owte the bares one mydsomer even vppone p*ar*te of our bretherne	vj d.
It*em* spent at our aldermane Iohn shawes afore the watche	vj d.
It*em* geven to the Cryer at the bares	j d.
It*em* geven to the pressvneres at the Castell iiij d. and at the northe gate iiij d. some is	viij d.
It*em* spent at our stvard sysses howse after the wache vppone our bretherne	v s.
It*em* payed for ij peare of gloves to the stuardes at iij d. a peare	vj d.
It*em* payed for horsbred the womane Ryde vppone at mydsomer	iij d.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 29 *(25 March 1585–25 March 1586) (Payments)*

…

It*em* payed for a pynt of wyne at mr llod*es* at the dresinge of the boye	iij d.
It*em* payed for a peare of hose to the Boye that dyd Ryd	viij d.

…

It*em* geven to the presoneres at the Castell iiij d. and to wedowe bovlton iiij d. and to the presoneres at the northe gate iij d. some is	xj d.
geven to the mynstreles one mydsomer even	xiiij d.
payed for a peare of gloves to the Boye that dyd Ryd	vj d.
payed for a peare of shewes to the same boye	ix d.
spent vppone mydsomer even . at the stuard harye skasbryckes howse at in the present*es* of the Compenye	xx d.
payed to Iohn denesberye for spungyes to sowe one the boyes clocke	ij d.
payed for cape papper to lape our banner in	iij d.

…

geven to the mynstreles at o*ur* govse svttinges	xij d.

…

payed for horsbrede to the horse the boye Ryd vppone	ij d.
geven to Raphe barlowes wyffe to drepe the boye	iiij d.

…

It*em* leaid dovne for wyne at Iohn Rabarnes dener	xvj d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrelles at the same dener	xij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [82] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

Payd for Cloathe to the stuard*es* hoodes and the makinge of them	vij s. vj d.
Payd for apayre of Buskyns to the childe	xij d.
Payd for apayre of Glooves to the childe	iij d.

...

Payd for the Lace to the buskkyns	ij d.
Payd at the Barres	j d.
Payd at the Castle & northgate	iiij d.
Payd to the mynstrelles	xij d.
Payd vppon mydsom*er* eve for the Drinckinge for the Companyes the childe & ye mynstrells	ij s. vj d.

...

1585–6

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [21] *(20 November–20 November)*

...

It*em* payede at the borrowynge of the boweye	v d.
It*em* payede at the bow*n*nynge of the boye	vj d.
It*em* payede ffor a payere of hosse	viij d.
It*em* payed ffor a payere of shew*es*	x d.
It*em* payed at the bryngeynge home of the boye	ij d.
It*em* payed ffor leadyng of the horsse & howledynge ye boye	viij d.
It*em* payed ffor horsse brede to ye horsse	iiij d.
It*em* payed to the pryssonar*es*	viij d.
It*em* spente on mydsomares ewen on ye companye	iiij s.
It*em* payde ffor dryssynge of ye syne	xvj d.
It*em* ffor a payere of glowes to ye boye	iij d.

...

It*em* payed ffor wyne at thomas crystyan*es* dynere	xviij d.
It*em* payed to the mynstrel*es*	xviij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 87v *(11 November 1584–11 November 1585) (Expenses)*

...

Item payde the musicions on martens even	ij s. iiij d.

...

f 89* *(11 November 1585–11 November 1586)*

...

Item payde for the gleves at shrofte tyde	v s.
Item payd to the berecche of the gleves	iiij d.
Item geven to the wheate men at shrofte tyde	ij s. vj d.

...

Item payde for a payre of gloves for the childe at mydsomer	iiij d.
Item payde for arsladyne to put on the saddell clothe	vj d.
Item for a payre of buskens for the childe	xx d.
Item payde for flewes for his bande	ij d.
Item payde for halffe an ellne of grene taffata for the child*es* breches	iij s.
Item payde for a girke for the childe lase & buttons	iij s. iiij d.
Item geven the taylor for dressinge the childe	iiij d.
Item payde for a dosen of horsse bredd	iiij d.
Item geven the crier at the barres	ij d.
Item geven the presoner*es* at the castell	xij d.
Item geven to the presoner*es* at the northe gate	xij d.
Item geven the musicioner*es* at mydsomer	ij s. vj d.
Item geven the two fote men for leadinge the horsse	xij d.

...

f 89v*

...

Item geven to nycolas brasse for playen at Richard bennet*es* drinckinge	viij d.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 13v *(1 August–1 August) (Payments)*

...

It*em* paid for a yeard and a q*uarte*r fyne Calico Clothe for the banner	iij s. viij d.
It*em* paid for ‸⌈grene mockadone⌉ [fringe] to the same [xvj d.]	viij d.
It*em* paid for a staffe and wier to the same the some of	iiij d.
It*em* paid to Thomas Poole for the workemanship som of	vj s. vij d.
It*em* paid to the Widowe ellis for iij yerd*es* of ffryng the some of	xvj d.
It*em* a beuarage to Thomas poole ⌈by p*ro*myse⌉	xvj d.

3, 5/ shrofte tyde: *13–15 February 1585/6*

It*em* to the wyffe of Thomas poole for sowynge the frynge to the baner & the sockett	xij d.
It*em* spent at our Alderman howse at our metynge vpon mydsomer euon	xviij d.
It*em* payd to the mynstrelles	xviij d.
It*em* spent vpon the chyld & hys foote man after the Wattche	viij d.
It*em* gyuon to the prysone*rs* at the castell and at the northgate	xij d.
It*em* for apayr*e* of hoses & shewes for the child	xiiij d.
It*em* payd for spanlyes to sowe vpon the bande of the chylde	iiij d.
bestowed vpon them w*hi*ch dressed the chylde in wyne & sugar	xj d. ij d.
It*em* to the Cryer at the barres	j d.
It*em* for apayre of gloues for the chylde	iiij d.
It*em* to hys foote man	xij d.
It*em* for apottell of wyne to mr Chamberlayne for hys consell	xij d.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 30 *(25 March 1586–25 March 1587)*. *(Payments)*

...

payed for a peare of gloves for the Chylld that Ryd afore our Compenye at mydsomer	iiij d.
payed for a peare of hose and shewes to the boye	xviij d.
It*em* geven to the Cryer at the bares ij d. and at the Castell to the presoneres iiij d. and at the northe gate iiij d. some is	ix d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrelles one mydsomer even . to goo a fore our Compenye	xviij d.
payed for wyne the same nyghte to our Compenye	xviij d.

...

payed at willim garffylldes to the mynstreles	[x d.] xij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

ff [83–3v] *(18 October–18 October)* *(Charges)*

...

It*em* payd at Raffe halewood*es* dýnner for apotle of secke vppo*n* St Luk*es* daye	xvj d.

	It*em* to the Waytes		xij d.
	It*em* to Brasey the minstrell at the same Tyme		iiij d.
	…		
	It*em* for apotle of Secke [aft] at the dynner of our Brother Nicholas halewoode Beinge the Twesdaye after St Luk*es* day A*nn*o dicto		xvj d.
	It*em* to Brasey the mynstrell ⌜at y*a*t tyme⌝		iiij d.
	…		
mydsom*er* chardg*es*	It*em* for apeyre of Buskyns to the childe	xvj d.	I d.
	It*em* spent at the borowing of twoe chaynes of goulde	ij d.	
	It*em* pa*i*d for flues to dresse the boyes capp	iiij d.	
	It*em* for pyn*n*es to dresse the boy	j d.	
	It*em* for drinke at the dressing of the boy	ij d.	
	It*em* pa*i*d for apeyre of gloves	iij d.	
	〈…〉	ij d.	
	It*em* to the minstrell	vj d.	I d.
	It*em* to the pr*e*soners	iiij d.	
	It*em* to Richardson	j d.	
mydsom*er* charg*es* hetherto./	It*em* for apottle of secke	xvj d.	
	It*em* for apottle of Claret wyne	x d.	
	…		

Quarter Sessions Personal Response CCALS: ZQSF 36/58

ff [1–1v]* *(5 November)*

To the right worshipp*fu*ll Edmund Gamull maior of the Cittie of Chest*er* Most humblie beseeketh yo*u*r good w*o*rshippe yo*u*r dailie orator will*ia*m helen That whereas it is p*re*ferred to yo*u*r w*o*rshippe, howe yo*u*r orator should co*m*mitt a great abuse in the night tyme against the s*er*vant*es* of mr Richard Rathbone, And therevpon to conceave yo*u*r orator worthie extreeme punishment, w*hi*ch supposed abuse, (if yo*u*r poore ‸⌜orator⌝ might for feare of arreast*es* and execuc*i*ons, to be done at the sute of Iohn Eaton keep*er*, and Rauffe Rathbone, against him) he wold duetifullie attend yo*u*r w*o*rshippes pleasure therein, and eith*er* defend the said accusac*i*ons or willinglie yeld to such punishment as the qualitie of his falt deserueth, and yet is so readie to doe, if vnder the collor of these accusac*i*ons the said Rauffe Rathbone beinge neere of kynne to the said mr Rathbone, may ‸⌜not⌝ effect his intent and serue his [accusac*i*on] execuc*i*on vpon yo*u*r orator And in the meane tyme to take the exa*min*ac*i*on of such p*er*sons as are p*ri*vie to [to] yo*u*r orators intent in the said abuse (if it please yow so to adiudge it) for your poore orator at a

5–6/ Twesdaye … dicto: *19 October 1585*

15/ 〈…〉: *text lost due to cropping*

Reasonable tyme in the night comynge verie neere to his chamber found foure women, dalyinge amonge theym selues, and disburtheninge theym, two beinge manske borne (as it seemed) vsed such straunge kynde of daunce, singinge, and wanton toyes, as seemed verie straunge to yo*u*r orator, settinge ther lanterne by and goinge w*i*th the same afterwarde*s* in one of ther handes yo*u*r orator did in like Iest geue some shadowe w*i*th his cloke to the said light, as after their [s] excessive mirth yo*u*r orators sodayne start did somewhat terrifie theym and made one of theym with more ease, and almost voluntarilie to dep*ar*te the light, w*hi*ch they leavinge and not callinge for, yo*u*r orator, went down the Rowe and crossed the streete intendinge to haue mett theym, and verelie thinkinge, they had bene seruante*s* to geffrey Cooke w*i*th whom he might & may be bold to co*m*mitt a great*e*r Iest w*i*thout grudge, but nowe altho the falt be made heynous it shall appeere to yo*u*r w*o*rshippe, that ymediatlie, the same night he ^⌜yo*u*r orator⌝ Revealed the same to his wyffe, and in the day followinge to Rauffe Calveley henrie Skarisbricke and 〈...〉 Iohnson and his wyffe by way of Iest and not of stelth |

The p*re*misses tenderlie considered/ and forasmuch as yo*u*r poore orator is not able as yet to ou*er*come his said dett*es* w*i*th manie others, and by reason thereof durst not hazard, for beggeringe him self his wyffe & children, to [ob] attend yo*u*r w*or*shippes officers/ That it wold please yo*u*r w*or*shippe to Remitt and forgeue his disabilitie therein and to take his app*er*ance at yo*u*r w*or*shippes house/ where he will duetifullie obey all yo*u*r worshippes direcc*i*ons & punishment*es* as shall seeme good to yo*u*r w*or*shippe, for yo*u*r orator feereth more yo*u*r worshippes dislikinge, then extremitie of lawe that may happe against him, for his innocence and intent will witnes his true meaninge w*hi*ch was onelie to Iest w*i*th theym that were Iestinge/ ffor god*es* sake therefore good m*aste*r maior examyne both p*ar*t*es* and geue Indifferent Iudgement/ (as I trust & am assured yow will) and w*i*thall to regard yo*u*r orators pou*er*tie and I will thankefullie take all punishment*es*, so I may enter into yo*u*r form*er* good likinge to the comfort of my wyff & children/ And altho oth*er*s haue complayned I will easelie avoyd the same, and Revyve my form*er* creditt And thus for god*es* loue do crave yo*u*r w*or*shippes limitac*i*on when I shall attend yo*u*r correcc*i*on whereunto I yeld

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 36/103

f [1v] *(23 June)*

Thom*a*s Atkins exa*min*ed where he dwelleth saith in Tewxburi wher he hath

---

8/ to: t *altered from* d

18/ dettes: *second* t *corrected from* b

30/ wyff: *second* f *corrected from* e

39/ Tewxburi: *Tewkesbury, Gloucester*

dwelled a twelue moneth and cam to this C*i*te to seke ⟨…⟩s in compenie of his wife and lay yestrdae night at boughto*n* and saith he him self was at the watch in this Citie…

…

1586–7

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [22] *(20 November–20 November)*

…

Ite*m* pead for wyne At Iohn scownses dyner	ij s. vj d.
Ite*m* pead for suger	vj d.
Ite*m* pead to the mynstrylles	ij s.
Ite*m* At the northgate	vj d.

…

f [22v]

Ite*m* pead to my Alderman nyckis	xij s.
Ite*m* for lassee And thryed	xiiij d.
Ite*m* for Buttones And sylke	ix d.
Ite*m* for halfe A yarde bluee cottone	iiij d.
Ite*m* spende *(blank)*	ij d.
Ite*m* for makyng the cyldes clothes	iij s.
Ite*m* spend At rafe cowpers	iij s. iiij d.
Ite*m* spend on mydsomer ewen	vj s.
Ite*m* for dressynge the syne	xix d.
Ite*m* for Apeare of hosse to the boye	xiiij d.
Ite*m* for horsse bred	iiij d.
Ite*m* for Apeare of showes to the boye	x d.
Ite*m* to the mynstryll	iiij d.
Ite*m* to the cryere	j d.
Ite*m* to the prysoners	vj d.
Ite*m* Apeare of glowes to the boye	iij d.
Ite*m* At the Boynynge of the boye And At sevrall tymes in warnynge the companye	xij d.

…

Ite*m* oure fowtman on medsomer evene	vj d.

…

23/ cyldes: *for* chyldes

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 89v *(11 November 1585–11 November 1586) (Expenses)*

...

Item payde to the musicions on martens even	ij s.

...

f 91* *(11 November 1586–11 November 1587)*

...

It*em* pead for the gleves at shrofte tid	v s.
It*em* spent at the berege of the gleves	iiij d.
It*em* geven to the weatmen at shroftyd	ij s.

...

It*em* pead for a peare of gloves for the chyld at mydsormer	iiij d.
It*em* spent at Mrs pyllins a bowt the chyld	iiij d.
It*em* pead for a peare of buskins for the chyld	xx d.
It*em* geven the prysenars at castell on mydsomer Eve	xij d.
It*em* geven the prisenares at the northgate	xij d.
It*em* geven to thomas Rycharsun at the bares	j d.
It*em* geven the musisiones for pleinge before vs	ij s. vj d.
It*em* pead for a pottell of sacke at my alderman leas on mydsomer Ive at night	xx d.
It*em* pead to the futma*n* for weating on the chyld	vj d.
It*em* pead [fo] Ihon ley for leding the horse	vj d.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 16v *(1 August–1 August) (Payments)*

...

It*em* for one Iryon to o*u*r banner	ij s.
It*em* [for] payd for*e* the child hose	viij d.
It*em* payd for a peyre of showes	viij d.
It*em* for a peyre of gloves for the child	vj d.
It*em* payd at the glou*er*stone to ye p*ris*n*er*s	iiij d.
It*em* payd at the norgate to the p*ris*on*er*s	iiij d.
It*em* payd to the Cryer at the bares	j d.
It*em* payd to the mynstrell	xvj d.
It*em* payd for makinge the Child*es* rep*ar*ile & dressinge ⌜hym⌝ Redy appon mydsom*er* eive⟨.⟩	xij d.
It*em* payd for ij footmen	xij d.
It*em* for vj^{o} potes of drynke to the byryche	vj d.

9, 11/ shrofte tid, shroftyd: *26–8 February 1586/7*

It*em* spent [afore] at o*u*r company cominge downe before the Child went vp to the barres & after wards brought ‸⌜him⌝ whome againe at the stuward howse	viij s. viij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 31 *(25 March 1587–25 March 1588) (Payments)*

...

payed for a peare of shewes to the boye that Ryd afore our compeyne one mydsomer even	viij d.
payed for a peare of hose for hyme	iiij d.
payed to the Cryer at the bares	ij d.
payed to the presnores at the northe gate iij d. and at the castell iij d.	vj d.

...

payed for a peare of gloves for the boye that Ryd afore our compenye	ij d.
payed to the mynstrell one mydsomer even	ij s. vj d.
payed to willim modsleye for his horse for the boye one mydsomer even	iiij d.
payed to gryffithe ap shone to a tend vppone the Chylld	iiij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [86] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*em* for aneln of fyne holland Cloathe for our Banner	v s.
It*em* for threyde to hem yte and for the ylott holes	j d.
It*em* to the Taylor for the settinge on of the fringe to the Banner	iij d.
It*em* to the presoners at the Castle and the northgate as accostomed	vj d.
It*em* to the Smyth for the Iron rodde that beareth vpp the Banner	vj d.
It*em* to the Crier at the Barrs	j d.
It*em* to the Bereache at the workinge of oure Banner spent at o*u*r aldermans	ij s. viij d.
It*em* spent at abereach to the taylor at ye setting on of the fringe to ye banner	ij d.
It*em* to the mynstrell*es*	xij d.

...

It*em* for the staffe to Carrye the bann*er*	x d.

It*em* spent at o*u*r Aldermans vpon mydsomer eve ij s. viij d.

…

Will of John Coppock, Gentleman CCALS: EDA 2/2

f 115 *(3 February)*

…It*em* I geue to Iohn Yeardley my ˄⌜lute and⌝ Lutinge booke…

…

1587–8

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/17

mb [3] *(13 October–11 October)* *(Watergate Street)*

…

Nicolas White m*er*chant for a house next adioyninge to the drap*er*s caredge house iij s. iiij d.

The Stuard*es* of the drap*er*s for their caredge house [viij d.]

Mr m*ar*ten *per* *ann*um xij d.

The Stuard*es* of the mercers for their caredge house [vj d.]

…

mb [4]*

…

It*em* to mr Thomas fletcher drap*er* for xix yard*es* [⟨…⟩] tinge a halffe clothe this xviijth of decemb*er* to make iiijor gownes to the wetemen and one to Iesper gyllome and acote to Richerd crofote at vij s. iiij d. the yarde is vj li. xv s. viij d.

…

mb [4d]

…

It*em* payed for v ell*es* of Redd yallowe and blewe sassenet for the Aunciante and for the staffe and other furniture to the same the some of iiij li.

It*em* to the stuard*es* of the sadlers toward*es* their bell vj s. viij d.

…

It*em* to Will*ia*m howell the vth of Iune and xxiiijth of Iune for playinge vpon the drume iij s.

…

It*em* the 25 of Iune to Thomas poole for tryminge of m*aste*r maior his mounte xxiij s. iiij d.

…

17/ Mr … annum: *interlineated here beginning in left margin*

It*e*m to Thomas gyllome and Robert smythe for their morreys daunsinge at mydsom*er*	vj s. viij d.
. . .	
It*e*m for sowinge sylke and mendinge of the Auntiente	vj d.
. . .	

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
ff [24–4v]* *(20 November–20 November 1588 or 13 January 1588/9)*

. . .	
It*e*m Layde Downe on mydsomer even in ale bred & Chese	v s.
It*e*m at attyring the boy spent	iiij d.
It*e*m for a paire of hose	vj d. |
It*e*m to the footman	iiij d.
It*e*m for a paire of gloues	ij d.
It*e*m borrowing the horse spent	ij d.
. . .	
It*e*m for buckeram to the banner	xv d.
It*e*m for fringe	x d.
It*e*m fore the Iren & stafe	v d.
It*e*m for the making & paynting the same	iiij s.
. . .	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 91v *(11 November 1586–11 November 1587) (Expenses)*

. . .	
It*e*m geven to the weatmen at martines Ive	ij s.
. . .	

ff 93–3v* *(11 November 1587–11 November 1588)*

. . .	
It*e*m pead for the gleaves at Shorofte tyd	v s.
It*e*m spent at the berege of the gleves	iiij d.
It*e*m geven to the weatmen at shorfte tyd	ij s.
. . .	
It*e*m for cotten and lynan lininge and lase to sett vpon the chyldes hose at mydsomer [and]	ij s.
It*e*m for the makinge of of them howse	vj d.
It*e*m for arsedine for to trime the sadle clothe	viij d.
It*e*m for a peare of gloves for the chyld	iiij d.

32, 34/ Shorofte tyd, shorfte tyd: *18–20 February 1587/8*

36/ lininge: *4 minims in* MS

38/ of of: *dittography*

It*em* for a peare of buskines for the chyld	xx d.
It*em* for a Dosen of horse bred	iiij d.
It*em* geven to Rychars*in* at the bares	ij d.
It*em* geven at the northgatt	xij d.
It*em* geven at the castell	xij d. |
It*em* geven to the mususiones one mydsomer Ive	ij s. vj d.
It*em* geven to the futtman for ledinge the horse	vj d.
It*em* spent at the Dressinge of the chyld	iiij d.
It*em* pead for a gallon of sacke at alderma*n* leas vpon mydsomer Ive	iij s. iiij d.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 18v *(1 August–1 August)* *(Receipts)*

...

Res*eived* a monnyes the alle wyffes a genest mydsomer even	iiij s.

...

f 20 *(Payments)*

...

spent in provydinge for a Chylld ‸⸢to Ryd afore oure companye⸣ the some of	xiij s. iiij d.
payed for makinge of a newe Rode to our syne	iij d.
payed for a peare of hose for the Chylld that Ryd fore ouer Compenye one mydsomer even	x d.
payed for a peare of shewes for hyme	viij d.
payed for a peare of gloves for hyme	iiij d.
payed for a lether sockete to pute the end of the staffe into carye the syne withe	ij d.
payed to ij ffute men to a tend vppon the Chylld at iiij d. a pese	viij d.
payed for a quart of wyne to the Ientill women that drest the Chylld	vj d.
payed over the shoost at the vndressinge of the Chylld at Iohn myllneres howse	iiij d.
payed to the mynstrell to playe afore our Comepanye one mydsomer even	xij d.
geven to the Cryer at the bares	j d.
geven to the pressoneres at the Castell iiij d. and at the northe gate iiij d. some	viij d.
payd at the stuardes howse one mydsomer even at the presentes of our bretherine	iij s. viij d.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 32 *(25 March 1588–25 March 1589) (Payments)*

…

mydsomer even.

It*em* spent at dicler Ioynores in spekinge for aboye to Ryd afore our compenye at mydsomer	ij d.
It*em* payed for a peare of gloves for the Chylld	ij d.
It*em* payed for a peare of hose for hyme	xj d.
It*em* payed for a peare of shewes for hyme	viij d.
It*em* payed for a pottell of wyne and svgare	xiiij d.
It*em* geven to the Cryer at the bares	ij d.
It*em* geven to the pressoneres at the Castell and at the northe gate	vj d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrelles to gooe afore our compenye	ij s.
…	
It*em* geven to the mynstrells at the govse shewtinge	xij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [89] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

…	
It*em* to the wayet*es*	xij d.
…	
It*em* geven to the mynstrell*es* att stuert*es* Raufe hallwodes dener att his wedding	viij d.
…	
It*em* paid for a paire of buskins to the boye	xvj d.
It*em* paid for pynnes and thride to bowne the boye	ij d.
It*em* paid for a paire of gloves to the boye	ij d.
It*em* paid for drincke att the bowninge of the Childe	ij d.
It*em* paid to the prissoners in the Castell and norgate	iiij d.
It*em* paid at our aldermans Allens for our bankett and wyne on mydsomar even	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* paid to the mynstrelles	xviij d.
It*em* paid for horse brede to the horse	iiij d.
…	
It*em* spent att alderman framwall on mydsomar even	xij d.
…	

4/ mydsomer: *2 minims for second* m *in* MS

30/ pynnes: *3 minims in* MS

1588–9

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 24

ff 9v–10 *(18 November) (Portmote court)*

proxime

M*anucaptio* will*el*mi madock de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* waitman de pace ferend*a* Thome Will*ia*mz will*el*m*o* m*er*cer & chr*isto*fero Burton hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* C*iuitatis* p*re*di*cte* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et i*bide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*ll*um* Godfridi Wynni Will*el*m*i* ffletch*er* Will*el*m*i* madok senior et Will*el*m*i* Sandes.

die m*ercurij*

M*anucaptio (blank)* madock de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*is* Thome will*ia*mz will*el*mo m*er*cer & chr*isto*fero Burton hic vsq*ue* Crastin*um* diem p*roximum* ad horam nona*m* ante merid*iem* eiusd*em* diei et tunc ad comp*ar*end*um* cora*m* maior*e* Ciuit*atis* p*re*di*cte* et abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*ll*um* henrici Annion senior*is* tann*er* |

proxime

M*anucaptio* will*el*mi m*er*cer de Ciuitate Cestr*ie* waytm⟨...⟩ pace ferend*a* will*el*m*o* madock de ead*em* Ci*vita*te wa⟨.⟩tma*n* hic vsq*ue* p*roxim*a*m* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciuit*atis* Cestr*ie* p*re*di*cte* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*ll*um* Ra*dulph*i Verna*n* et Ric*ardi* Ledsh*am*

proxime

M*anucaptio* chr*isto*feri Burton de Ciuitate Cestr*ie* waitman de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*o* Will*el*m*o* madok hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciuit*atis* p*re*di*cte* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*ll*um* pleg*iorum* p*re*di*ctorum*

proxime

M*anucaptio* Thome Will*ia*mz de Ciuit*ate* Cestr*ie* waitman de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*o* Will*el*m*o* madok hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmoti Ciuit*atis* p*re*di*cte* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et i*bide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine Licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*ll*um* pleg*iorum* p*re*di*ctorum*

f 19v *(1 January)*

...

Henr*icus* concord de Ciuit*at*e Cestr*ie* musici*o*n no*n* ad deambuland*um* in ead*em* Ciuit*at*e aliqua nocte imposter*um* post hora*m* nona*m* sub pena xl li.

...

Henr*icus* Tailer de Standish in com*itatu* Lanc*astrie* musici*o*n ad reced*endum*

13/ Crastinum diem p*roximum*: *19 November 1588* a Ci*uita*te cest*rie* hac noct*e* et imposter*um* no*n* ad reveniend*um* in eand*em* sub pena xl s.

f 23v *(13 February)*

...

M*anucaptio* Thome [Bildon] ⌈Will*ia*mz⌉ de Ciui*tate* Cestr*ie* musici*o*n de pace ferend*a*
comp*ar*uit et relax*atus* p*er* maior*em* ex Assens*u* p*er*tin*enti*

proxime

M*anucaptio* Thom*e* Bildon de Ciui*ta*te Cest*rie* *ser*uien*tis* ad clavas infra Ciuitat*em* p*re*d*ictam* de pace ferend*a* Thome Will*ia*mz de ead*em* Ci*uitate* musici*o*n hic vsque proxim*am* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*dict*e* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et i*bide*m ad comp*ar*end*u*m et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*er*icu*ll*um dauid Richardson Ric*ard*i meyrik Ioh*ann*is Eaton & Will*el*mi Hocknell

f 29v *(21 April)*

...

Ioh*ann*is Cally filii Petri cally musici*o*n q*uo*d ip*s*e amodo no*n* iret in nocte ludend*o* psallen*s* le whistelinge nec aliqu*o* alio modo post horam deb*itam* viz. post hora*m* nona*m* nec post hora*m* ill*am* esse extra hospic*ium* suum sub pena xl li. et ad seip*su*m conu*er*sand*um* p*ro*ut decet virum honestum imposter*um* sub pena p*re*d*icta*

...

f 32v *(17 May)*

...

M*anucaptio* henr*ici* Shurlock de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* piper no*n* ad ludend*um* imposter*um* sup*er* lez pipes infra lib*er*tat*es* Ci*uita*t*is* cest*rie* matinu*m* et inupt*e* except*is* sine Licenc*ia* maior*is* et All*iorum* Iustic*iariorum* pac*is* infra eand*em* Ci*uita*tem sub pen*a* for*is*ffac*iendi* lez pipes *suos*

M*anucaptio* Ric*ard*i Chaterton ministleo & piper in consi*m*il*i* Rec*o*g*nitione*/ sub pena forisfac*iendi* *suos* lez pipes

...

f 54v *(7 October)*

...

comp*ar*uit et relax*atus* p*er* maior*em*

29/ inupt*e*: *for* inepte *(?)*

M*anucaptio* Will*el*m*i* m*ercer* de Ci*uitate* cest*rie* waitma*n* de pac*e* ferend*a* Will*el*mi Madock Iunior*is*

. . .

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/18
mb [3] *(11 October–10 October)*

. . .

vnpaide Nycholas white Marchant for a house Next adioyninge to the drapars Cariadge howse p*er* Ann*um* iij s. iiij d.
[The stewards*es* of the drap*er*s for their Cariadge house viij d.]
Mr Martin p*er* Ann*um* xij d.
[The steward*es* of the m*er*cers for their Cariadge house vj d.]

. . .

mb [5]

. . .

It*em* to mr ffletcher drap*er* the xjth of december for xviij yeard*es* of sadd nerve Collored broade Cloth att vij s. iiij d. the yearde. Viz for three of the eldest waytte men x yeard*es* for iij gownes iij yerd*es* for towe Coate Clothes for towe of the Yonger Wayttmen. iij yerd*es* and halfe for agowne for gesper gyllam and one yearde and halfe for a Coate cloth for Crofoote keper of the Conduitte and ys Some vj li. xij s.

. . .

It*em* for towe snares for the drome and one Kinge Round of the same drvme paid the xvjth of december ij s.

. . .

It*em* ffor playinge vppon the drvme before m*aste*r mayor vppon goodtid*es* tewsedaye last past is Some vj d.
It*em* the xijth of februarie to the steward*es* of the Sadlers toward*es* their Bell is Some vj s. viij d.

. . .

mb [6]

. . .

It*em* the xxiiij^{o} of Ivne to thomas poole for settinge forth of the Mount before m*aste*r mayr on mydsom*er* even is some xxiij s. iiij d.
It*em* the xxvth of Ivne to the morres dauncers ffor daunsynge at the Watche before the shereffes is some vj s. viij d.

. . .

29/ goodtid*es* tewsedaye last past: *11 February 1588/9*

It*em* the xijth of Iulye to Edwarde Corrye ffor mendinge of the drume against mydsom*er* Last past is xxij d.

...

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 43* *(11 October–10 October)*

...

henrye earl of darbye came to this Cittye and was verye honourablye enterteayned of the Cittizens °great store of Corn Cam to the Citty to the Comfort of ye Cittizens & broughte down the market also a play was playd at high crosse called the storey of Kinge Ebrauk with all his sonne but such rayne fell it was hindred much°

...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 15 *(11 October–10 October)*

...

This yeare Roberte Brocke died .8. march. and Mr will*ia*m Hamnet drap*er* Succeeded hym., Henry Earle of darby came to this Cittye./ & was ho*no*rably received
°The storye of kinge Ebrauke played in this Cittye°

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 56 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Inp*ri*mis to w*illia*m welch for three night*es* attendinge vpon the maior in Christmas xij d.
Item for the loane of harnes viij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [25]* *(20 November 1588 or 13 January 1588/9–13 January 1589/90)*

...

It*em* Receiu*e*d more of the Cowp*er*s vppon mydsomer evine vj d.

...

(Charges for the Midsummer watch)
Item payd for a payre of hosse for the boye that dyd Ryde vppon mydsomer evine xiiij d.

9–12/ great ... much: *in RH II's hand*

It*em* payd for a payre of shewes for hime	viij d.
It*em* for a payre of gloves for hime	iij d.
It*em* payd for horsse bredd for the horsse	iiij d.
It*em* to the prysoners at Castyll & northgate	vij d.
It*em* to the mynstrell	iiij d.
It*em* spent vppon our Company at mydsomer evine	iij s. iiij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 93v *(11 November 1587–11 November 1588) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* spent at alderman Insis one martins Ive	xx s.
It*em* geven to the weatme*n*	ij s.

...

f 95* *(11 November 1588–11 November 1589)*

...

Item. payd for Gleaves at Shroftyde	v. s.
Item. Spent at the berridge of the same gleaves	iiij d.
Item. geven to the weatmen, at the Alderman Inces howse	ij. s. vj d.

...

f 95v*

...

Item. payd for a payre of gloves, for the Childe, on midsomer even	iij d.
Item. payd for horse breade	iiij d.
Item. payd for threede to sett one Arsedine, one the Childes foote Clothe	j d.
Item. payd for a fydder for the boye	viij d.
Item. payd to Thomas Richarsonne for Callinge vs, at the Barres	iiij d.
Item. geven to the Priesoners at the Castle	xij d.
Item. geven to the Priesoners at the Northgate	xij d.
Item. payd for a potle of Claret wyne on midsomer Even, at Alderman leys	xij d.
Item. payd for a potle of Sacke the same tyme	xx d.
Item. payd to the minstrels for playing before vs	iij s.
Item. payd for a payre of Buskins for the Childe	xx d.
Item. spent at the dreshinge of the Childe	iiij d.

18/ Shroftyde: *9–11 February 1588/9*

Item. payd for dresshinge the Staffe to Robert leeche the same tyme	viij d.
Item. payd to a foote man	vj d.

…

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 22 *(1 August–1 August) (Receipts)*

…

Itt*em* Receavid of diverse of our neighbors towarde*s* the settinge out of ye watche	iij s. j d.

…

f 22v

…

Itt*em* for a pair of showes to the boy that Ride at midsomer	viij d.
Itt*em* for apair of hoose and gloves to the boy	xij d.
Itt*em* Speent at our aldermans howse one midsomer Even when we went to the watche to fetche him down	vij d.
Itt*em* given to the Crier at the barres	j d.
Itt*em* given to the prisoners at the ⌈Castle⌉ [barres] and at the northegatte	viij d.
Itt*em* for a sokett to hold the banner staffe	ij d.
Itt*em* for horse bread to the horse that the boy Rid vpon	iiij d.
Itt*em* to two footmen to load the horse	vj d.
Itt*em* to the minstrels to play befor oure company	xvj d.
Itt*em* for the drinckinge to our bretheren befoer the watche and after the watche was Doon when the brought whom the Childe/ And Lickewise to the minstrels and foot men At oure steward*es* howse	vij s. ij d./

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 32v *(25 March 1589–25 March 1590) (Disbursements)*

…

mydsomer even.

payed for a peare of hose to the boye that Ryd a fore our Compenye	viij d.
payed for a peare of shewes for hyme	viij d.
geven to the Cryer at the bares	ij d.
geven to the pressoneres at the Castell and at the northe gate	vij d.
payed for a peare of gloves to the boye	ij d.

payed to the minstrells to playe afore our compenye	xxij d.
payed to povell for pentinge of the staffe	j d.
payed to a tellyer for sowinge the boyes clothes	iij d.
spent one mistris kaye at the bounying of the boye	ij d.

...

Painters’, Glaziers’, Embroiderers’, and Stationers’ Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [90]* *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

In pr*im*is paid at our brothers thomas prickett dynner for wyne and to the mynstrelles	vij s. iiij d.

...

It*em* spent on mydsomar even in wyne	ij s. ij d.
It*em* geven att the Castell & northgate	viij d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrell	vj d.
It*em* paid for a paire of buskins for the Chylde	xvj d.
It*em* paid for a paire of gloves	iij d.
It*em* paid for drincke flues and pynnes att the boning of the Chylde	viij d.
It*em* paid for horse bred and the leder of the horse	iij d.
It*em* paid for a Cloke to the Chylde so hitt Remayning to the Company	v s.

...

It*em* spent att Ihon walkers dyner and the mynstrelles	iij s. x d.
It*em* to the mynstrells att thomas gyllns wedyng	xij d.

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 3/84

ff [2–2v]* *(30 October)*

...

ffraunc*es* Barlow of pilkinton in the cou*nty* of lanc*aster* of xxxv yer*es* or ther about having spent his tyme in s*er*uice of warres [of] ‸⌈saith he⌉ hath bene in this Citie for v daies space for his pleasure
Exa*m*ined when & wher he first fell acquanted w*i*th the form*er* exa*minat*e godffrey: saith yesterdaie laste in Iohn Deames house: and there alone drank together and beinge ther saith 2: fidler*es* were synging of the last Triumphe of england against the spaniard*es* whom this exa*minat*e reprehended saying let vs not reioice before the victory and thervpon saith the said godffrey shewed this exa*minat*e A paper & said he colde not Reade it but said it was A prophesy & therfor willd this exa*minat*e to Reade it w*hi*ch this exa*minat*e

---

22/ Remayning: *4 minims for* in *in* MS

37/ synging: *3 minims for* in *in* MS

did reade: theffect whereof this exa*minat*e doeth not now rememb*er* and saith aft*er* that this exa*minat*e read yt the said godffr⟨..⟩ was very [well] desyerus to haue it againe & Asked it of this exa*minat*e in the p*re*sens of the 2: maids of this house one gwen*n* & an oth*er* | and hervpon the said Barlow required him the said godffrey to declare what woord the same Barlow spake to the said fidler*es* ^⌈he the same godffrey⌉ saith ^⌈that the said Barlow⌉ founde falt w*i*th them & ther songe for that they sange of the Tryumphe of En⟨...⟩d aganst the spaniard*es* & said he wold geue them noe money for that song for that he liked it not for that it was not [n] for a man to reioice before the victory w*hi*ch woords also the said Barlow confesseth he the same Barlow did so speke accordingly & will iustif⟨.⟩ to death

(signed) fràuncis Barlowe
(signed) Robertus brook maior
(signed) Thomas grew
(signed) Will*ia*m Massie

Note the said Barlow discharged the 15 of november 1588 vpon therle of derby his L*ordships* direction & vpon this file filed

Inventory of William Glazier, Esquire CCALS: WI 1588
f [1] *(17 January)* *(In the parlour)*

...

It*em* a paire of virginalls w*i*th the frame xxx s.

...

1589–90

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 25
f 12 *(15 November)* *(Portmote court)*

...

compar*uerunt* et relax*ati* p*er* maior*em* ex Assens*u* p*er*tin*enti*
proxime M*anucaptio* Ioh*ann*is Kelly et Petri Kelly de Ciui*tat*e Cestr*ie* music*i*ons de pace ferend*a* Thome Will*ia*mz de ead*em* music*i*on hic vsq*ue* proxi*mam* Cur*iam* Portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* ib*id*em prox*ime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*er*icu*ll*um Ioh*ann*is Hine Will*el*mi Modesley walteri nowell et Ioh*ann*is Harison

M*anucaptio* p*re*d*icti* Ioh*ann*is Kelly quod obs*erve*t danu*m* suam post non*am* noctu*rnam* impost*erum* nisi p*ro* causa rational*i* sub pena xl s.

M*anucaptio* p*re*d*icti* Petri Kelly p*ro* seip*s*o sub cond*icione* p*re*d*icta* p*ro* eod*em* Petro p*er*implend*a*

37/ danu*m*: *for* domum

f 33 *(31 March)*

...

Manucaptio Ioh*ann*is Seton Iunior*is* de Ci*vitat*e cestr*ie* fidler ad reced*endum* a Ci*vitat*e p*redicta* hac instant*i* die et postea no*n* ad reveniend*um* in eand*em* Civit*atem* duran*tibus* mandatis Maioris p*redicti* sub pena decem libr*arum*

...

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/19

mb [2] *(10 October 1589–16 October 1590) (Payments and expenses)*

...Et solut*um* pro novemdecem virgat*is* et quarter panni lanei pro tribuen*is* Ciuit*atis* predict*e* vocat*is* le waytmen et Iasper Gillam et Crowfot vij li.... Et solut*um* Ric*ard*o Bromley et Laur*enc*io warmincham S*enescall*is occupac*ionis* del Sadlers date per Ciuitat*em* ad part*em* fac*iendam* le horse bell vj s. viij d. Et solut*um* Raim*und*o Stockton pro le gun powder xl li. Et solut*um* pro Cariag*io* inde ij s....

...

mb [3]

...

Nich*olau*m White m*er*cat*orem* pro domo adiacen*te* Quid*em* domo voc*ate* the drapers Cariadge howse	iii s. iiij d.

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3

p 59 *(29 September–25 November)*

...

Item to the Q*ueen's* players at the appoyntment of Mast*er* Deane & the Chapter	xx s.

...

p 94 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Inp*r*imis to Io*hn* Welch for iij night*es* attendinge vpon the maior in Christmas	xij d.
Item for the loane of harnes	viij d.

...

21/ Nich*olaum* ... m*er*cat*orem*: *for* Nicholao White mercatore
22/ Quid*em* domo: *for* Cuidam domui

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [26] *(13 January 1589/90–13 January 1590/1) (Payments)*

…	
Charges Lead out on midsomer even as folloeth	
It*em* payd for a payre of hosse for ye boye y*a*t did Ryde for ye Compeny	ix d.
It*em* for a payre of showse for ye Boye	x d.
It*em* payed for a payre of gloves for ye boye	ij d.
It*em* for horsebred for ye horss	iiij d.
It*em* to ye foote man	iiij d.
It*em* geuen to ye Cryer at ye Bares	j d.
It*em* geuen to ye presseners of ye Castell and ye norgate	viij d.
It*em* geuen to ye minsterell	vj d.

f [26v]

…	
It*em* Bestowed vppon owr Compeny after ye watche	iij s. iiij d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 95v *(11 November 1588–11 November 1589) (Expenses)*

…	
Item. Spent at alderman Inces, one martins Eve	xx. s.
Item. geven to the weatmen	ij. s.
…	

f 96v* *(11 November 1589–11 November 1590)*

…	
It*em* giuen to the waitmen the same daye	xvj d.
…	
It*em* giuen for Gleves at Shroftide	v s.
It*em* giuen to the barrage	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the waitmen at o*u*r Ald*er*man Ince*s* house at Shroftide	ij s.
…	

f 97*

It*em* giuen for a payre of gloves for ye childe vpon Midsom*er* evine	iiij d.

29/ the same daye: *ie, election day, 11 November 1589* 31, 34/ Shroftide: *1–3 March 1589/90*

It*em* ‸⌈spent⌉ for apparelinge the Childe	v d.
It*em* for a payre of buskinges for the childe	xx d.
It*em* for two footmen for to attend vpon the Childe	xij d.
It*em* for the horsbread	iiij d.
It*em* spent at widdowe Eages house vpon Midsom*er* evine	vj d.
It*em* giuen to Thomas Richardson for callinge vs at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the pr*is*oners of the castell	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the pr*is*oners of the Northgate	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the Musitiones	ij s. vj d.
It*em* giuen to [thre] 4 Musitioners the same daye	vj d.
It*em* giuen for a potell of Sacke sent for to our Ald*er*men Leas house the same daye	xvj d.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 24 *(1 August–1 August) (Payments)*

...

It*em* for dressinge o*ur* boye that Ryde	iiij d.
It*em* hose showes for o*ur* boye	xvj d.
It*em* for glowes for o*ur* cheld	iiij d.
It*em* the man that tendyd the childe	vj d.
It*em* to the cryer at the barres	j d.
It*em* to the prysoners at the castell and at the northgate	viij d.
It*em* in bowrowinge the dyvelles ‸⌈clothes⌉ spent	ij d.
It*em* for the two men that weare them	xij d.

...

It*em* the woman that Ryd w*it*h them to breake the goddertes	viij d.
It*em* the man that carryed the baskett	iiij d.
It*em* o*ur* baner staffe & Rode	vj d.
It*em* o*ur* can*n*e trym*m*ynge	ij d.
It*em* for two dosen of goddert*es*	xvj d.

...

It*em* the horse for o*ur* chield in bread & gresse	iij d.
It*em* spent on mydsomer eaven on oure companye	vj s. ij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 33 *(25 March 1590–25 March 1591)*

...

mydsomer. even.

It*em* payed for the Chyllds hose xj d. and for his shewes ix d. some is	xx d.
It*em* geven to the minstrells to playe a fore our compeny one mydsomer even	ij s.
payed for wyne to the Ientillwomen that drest the chylld	iiij d.
spent at Iohn sysses howse at the byinge of the dvblete	iiij d.
payed for a peare of gloves for the Chylld	ij d.
geven to the pressoneres at the Castell iij d. and at the northe gate iij d. and to the Cryer at the barres ij d.	viij d.
payed for dvblitte for the Chylld	ix s. vj d.

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [93] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

…	
It*em* in pr*im*is at Nicholas halewoodes house for A quarte of Seck one o*ur* accompte daye vz. St luke	x d.
It*em* to the Musicians at the same tyme	vj d.
…	
It*em* Spent at Thomas Chaloners at the amendinge of our Banner	vij d.
It*em* Spent at the fetchinge awaie of ye banner	vj d.
…	
It*em* to the Crier on mydsomer eve at ye barr*es*	ij d.
It*em* to an Impotent old man on midsom*er* eve	ij d.
It*em* at the Castle and the Northgate	viij d.
It*em* for hose and Shooes to the Child	xviij d.
It*em* for pynnes and Glooues	iiij d.
It*em* spent at the dressinge of the child	iij d.
It*em* for horse Bread on midsomer eve	ij d.
It*em* to the musicians on mydsomer eve	xx d.
It*em* Spent on mydsomer eve at o*ur* supper	iiij s. iiij d.
It*em* for Wyne at the verey Same tyme	xij d.
…	

1590–1
Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 25
f 45 *(28 May)*

Session held before William Massey, mayor

…

At w*hi*ch day matter was in question betwene Ales Will*ia*mz late wief of

Thom*as* Will*ia*mz Late one of the waytsmen of the said Citie vpon thone party and chr*ist*ofer Burton and Will*ia*m Madock the other waitesmen of the said Citie for and Concerninge their instrument*es* of musick viz the how boies the Recorders the Cornet*es* and violens whereof the said Ales Claymeth a p*ar*te as to her said late husband in his lief tyme belonginge w*hi*ch they deny to yeld vnto: But are Contented and soe are now Agreed and it is now fully ordered by Assent that the said instrum*entes* shall from hensfurth forever remayne Continue and bee the owne proper good*es* of the said Waitesmen and of the s*ur*vivour of them and of Will*ia*m Will*ia*mz late sonne of the said Thom*as* Will*ia*mz And of henry Burton sonne of the said chr*ist*ofer When they shall haue s*er*ved out their yeres as Apprentices to the said exercise and to the s*ur*vivour of them and the survivour of eu*ery* of them and of the survivinge sonne of eu*ery* of them experienced or to be experienced in the said excercise and Apt and fitt for the same s*er*vinge w*i*thin the said Citie or ells to remayne foreuer to the said Citie At the Appoyntm*en*t and Admittance of the maior of the said Citie for the tyme beinge

ff 58v–9 *(4 September) (Portmote court)*

...

comp*ar*uit et relax*atus per* maior*em* ex Assens*u* pertin*enti*
M*anucaptio* Georgii Cally de Ciui*ta*te Cestr*ie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a*
chr*isto*fero Burton de eadem Ci*uita*te music*io*n hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam*
proxime portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* pre*dicte* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m
ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li.
per p*ericu*llum will*el*m*i* laton henr*ici* clough Anth*on*ii warmigh*am* &
gilb*erti* Hanck

comp*ar*uit et relax*atus per* maior*em* ex Assens*u* pertin*enti*
M*anucaptio* Ioh*ann*is cally de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a*
proxime pre*fat*o chr*isto*fer*o* Burton hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ci*uitatis*
pre*dicte* i*bide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um*
et abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*llum
pleg*iorum* pre*dictorum* will*el*mi laton henr*ici* clough Anth*onii* warmigh*am* &
gilb*erti* Hancok

comp*ar*uit M*anucaptio* chr*isto*feri Burton de Ciui*ta*te Cestr*ie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a*
Ioh*anni* Cally pre*dicto* hic vsque p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* pre*dicte*
proxime ib*ide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et i*bide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n*
reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*llum Ric*ardi* warmigh*am*
Thome Richadson cutler Henr*ici* Iones et Tho*me* fisher shomaker

comp*ar*uit M*anucaptio* Thome Hough de Ciui*tate* Cestr*ie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a*
pre*fat*o Ioh*anni* cally hic vsq*ue* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* pre*dicte* ib*ide*m

pro*xime*

p*roxime* tend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* peric*ul*lu*m* pleg*iorum* pred*ictorum* |

comp*aruit*
p*roxima*

M*anucaptio* will*el*mi Madock de Ciuitat*e* Cest*rie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*o* Ioh*anni* cally hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Curiam portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* i*bide*m prox*ime* tend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m Ad compar*endum* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* peric*ul*lum Ric*ardi* warmigh*am* Thome Richadson Cutler hen*rici* Iones & Thome fissh*er* shomaker/
…

f 60v (*6 September*)

pax relax*ata*

Mic*hae*lis

M*anucaptio* chr*isto*feri Burton de Ciui*tat*e cest*rie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a* Ioh*anni* Cally hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* C*iuitatis* p*re*d*icte* ib*ide*m p*roxime* tend*am* post festu*m* *sanct*i Mich*ae*l*is* Arch*angeli* p*roximum* fut*urum* et tunc et i*bide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* peric*ul*lum Hen*rici* Iones Thome Richardson Will*el*m*i* Richards*on* cutlers & Ioh*anni*s madoke

pax relax*ata*

Mic*hae*lis

M*anucaptio* Thome Hough de Ci*uita*te cest*rie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*o* Ioh*anni* cally in forma p*re*d*icta* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* peric*ul*l*um* pleg*iorum* p*re*d*ictorum* sc*ilicet* post fest*um* *Sanct*i Mich*ae*l*is* p*roximum*

pax relax*ata*

Mic*hae*lis

M*anucaptio* will*el*mi madok de Ciui*tat*e Cest*rie* music*io*n de pace ferend*a* p*re*fat*o* Ioh*anni* cally hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Cur*iam* portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*d*icte* i*bide*m p*roxi*me tend*am* post festu*m* *Sanct*i Mich*ae*l*is* arch*angel*i p*roximum* futur*um* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*end*um* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* peric*ul*lum pleg*iorum* p*re*d*ictorum*/
…

ff 67–7v (*4 October*)

…

comp*aruit* & relax*atus*
M*anucaptio* chr*isto*fer*i* Burton de Ciui*tate* cest*rie* Music*io*n de pa*ce* Ioh*anni* Cally

comp*aruit* & relax*atus*
M*anucaptio* Thome Hough de Ciui*tate* cest*rie* Music*io*n de pa*ce* ferend*a* p*re*fat*i* Ioh*anni* Cally |

comp*aruit* & relax*atus*
M*anucaptio* Will*el*mi Madock de Ciui*tate* cest*rie* Musici*on* de pac*e* ferend*a*
p*re*fat*o* Ioh*ann*i Cally
...

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/20
mb [7] *(16 October–15 October)* *(Payments)*
...
It*em* payd for xix yard*es* & a quarter of cloth for the wayte
men Iesper Gyllam and Crofoote vij li.
...

mb [8]
...
It*em* to Rychard Bromley & Lawrence Warminsham
steward*es* of the sadlers gyven by the Cittię toward*es*
there bell vj s. viij d.
...
It*em* to Iohn waring for playing vpon the dromme before
m*aste*r maior at shroftyde viij d.
...
It*em* payd to Tho*mas* Poole paynt*er* for dressing m*aste*r
maiors mount and the Geyant*es* and beast*es* at midsom*er* xliij s. iiij d.
...
It*em* for playing on the drum*m*e at midsomer viij d.
It*em* to the morris danc*er*s vj s. viij d.
...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 98 *(29 September–25 November)*
...
Item to the Quene Ma*ies*tes players xx s. x d.
...

p 124 *(25 December–25 March)* *(Extraordinary expenses)*

Inprimis to Walshe for 3. nights attendance vpo*n* m*aste*r
Maior in Christmas xij d.
Item for the loane of Harnesse xij d.
...

19/ dromme: *7 minims in* MS

20/ shroftyde: *14–16 February 1590/1*

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [27v] *(13 January 1590/1–13 January 1591/2) (Payments)*

...

mydsomer even	It*em* payed for a peare of hose to the boye	x d.
	It*em* payed for a peare of shewes to the boye	x d.
	It*em* payed to the Cryer at the bares j d. and and to the presoneres at the Castell iiij d. and at the northe gate iiij d. some is	ix d.
	It*em* geven to the horse in brede	iiij d.

...

It*em* geven to a minstrell to playe afore our Compenye	vj d.
It*em* [geven] bestowed vppone our Compenye after the watche	iij s. iiij d.

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 97 *(11 November 1589–11 November 1590) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* giuen to the waitmen vpon Martins evine	xvj d.
It*em* giuen to Calie the same night	xij d.

...

f 99 *(11 November 1590–11 November 1591)*

...

It*em* payed to the Musitioners the same daye	xij d.

...

It*em* payed for the glaves	v s.
It*em* giuen for the barage of the glaves	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the watmen at o*ur* Alderman Inc*es* house at Shroftide	ij s.

...

f 99v

It*em* payed for one quarter di. of yevlowe satine	iiij s. x d.
It*em* payed for Sarcenet	iij s.
It*em* payed for linen clothe	xj d.
It*em* payed for mendinge the staffe	iij d.
It*em* payed for makinge the dublet bumboist and buttons	iiij s.

6/ and and: *dittography*
24/ the same daye: *ie, election day, 11 November 1590*
29/ Shroftide: *14–16 February 1590/1*

It*em* payed for a payre of gloves for ye childe	ij d.
It*em* giuen to Ric*er*son the Crier	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the p*r*isoners at the castell	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the p*r*isoners at the Northgate	xij d.
It*em* for horsbreade	iiij d.
It*em* payed for iij Quart*es* of Sacke vpon Midsom*er* Evene	ij s. vj d.
It*em* payed for the Musitioners for playnge before vs	ij s. vj d.
It*em* payed for a payre of buskins for the childe	xx d.
It*em* payed for leadinge the horse	vj d.

...

Joiners’, Carvers’, and Turners’ Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 36 *(25 March 1591–25 March 1592) (Disbursements)*

...

It*em* Spente at the attyringe & setting fowrth of the childe	ij d.
It*em* geaven to the presoners of the Castle and the northegate	vj d.
It*em* paide to the Mynstrell*es* vppon mydsomer Eve	xij d.
It*em* paide for apaire of hose to the child that rydd before ye co*m*panye	xj d.

...

It*em* geaven to aboye that led the horse for the child at midsomer	ij d.
It*em* geaven to the Cryer at the Barrs for the Companie	ij d.
It*em* for apeyre of Shoes and apeire of glooves to the child	xj d.
It*em* more to the Mynstrelles on mydsom*er* Eve	xij d.

...

Painters’, Glaziers’, Embroiderers’, and Stationers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [97] *(18 October–18 October)*

...

It*em* in p*ri*m*is* To the Waytes and for Wyne the daie aft*er* St Luk*es* at o*ur* bro*ther* Edmundes dynner at o*ur* Aldermannes	iij s. ij d.	tch

...

It*em* for apayre of hose to the child for mydsoom*er* eve	xij d.	Im
It*em* for apayre of Shoos to the child	viij d.	Im
It*em* for apayre of Glooves to the child	iij d.	Im
It*em* to the mynstrell*es* for mydsomer eve	xxij d.	Im
It*em* to the presone*rs* at the northgate & ye Castle	vj d.	Im

---

32–3/ the daie aft*er* St Luk*es*: *19 October 1590*

It*em* spente at the bowninge of the childe at mr w*illia*m hollande*s*	iij d.	Im
It*em* spent at o*u*r aldermans vpon the minstrell*es* & the child ⌞& such as cam thether after o*u*r p*ro*cessione⌟	xij d.	Im
It*em* geaven the youngman that ledd the horse for ye child	ij d.	tc
It*em* geven the Crier at the Barrs	ij d.	Im
It*em* for horse bredd to the horse wee borrowed	ij d.	tc

…

f [37v]

…

Suche as did followe the banner vppon mydsomer eve 1591 w*i*th Mr massye maior

1591
will*ia*m fframwaye
Tho*mas* Chaloner
Iohne Walker
Rob*er*t wayte
Edward dawbye
Iohne Deusburye
Raffe halewood
Thomas Prickett
Robert Edmounde*s*

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 40/21
f [1]* *(28 May) (Examination of Robert Curry)*

Taken at Chester

Exa*mine*d who cam*e* to him vpon sondaie at night laste to goe to the m*ar*she at Saltney or not Saith one Paull Iohnson Cam to him vpon the said Sondaie at servise tyme in the afore none and asked him wheth*er* he wold goe w*i*th [this ex] the said Paull to Saltney whoe answerd he wold that night folowinge And soe saith that eveninge he this exa*mina*t & others beinge mery togeth*er* at the may pole: the said Paull, Iohn Sefton, Edward ffinch Rob*er*t Kow, Richard Barron, Iohn Byram will*ia*m Thompson, peter mauser and this exa*minat* [me] determined and went to pull downe the ditche [of and] at the hanch grene and did drive viij or ix horses from the [horse] same greene

---

5/ & such … processione: *interlineated without mark of insertion*
31/ sondaie at night laste: *23 May 1591*

out of the liberties of this Citie into Saltney about xjth of the clock in the night./

...

Quarter Sessions Presentments CCALS: ZQSF 40/28
single sheet *(22 July)*

...

We p*re*sent the incrochem*ent*es made vpon the Lane ⟨...⟩ding from mr davy dimock*es* w*i*thowt the barres toward*es* the Cockepitt nere cowlane end/ & the stopping of the water cours⟨.⟩ to the anoyance & lett of her m*aiesties* subiect*es* travelling that wayes...

...

1591–2

Petition of Thomas Bedle, Instrument Maker, to the Mayor and Council
CCALS: ZAP 1/38
f [1] *(13 July)*

To the right worshipfull Mr Thom*as* Lynyall Maior of the Citie of
Chester & to the Alderme*n* sheriffs & comen councell thereof

In moste humble wise, besecheth your wor*ships* Your Orator Thom*as* Beedle Bowier. and maker of Instrument*es* of Musick: That whereas your said Orator is A verey poore man brought vp in the occupac*i*on of a Bowier and in the trade of makinge of Instrument*es* of Musick and Longe staves, for her Ma*ies*tes seruice, w*hi*ch said trade he is moste desyerus to set vp, vse and occupie w*i*thin the said Citie, if he Might obtaine the freedom thereof, beinge moste desyerus to end the rest of his time heere: with yo*u*r worshi⟨...⟩ good favours: where fore yo*u*r [wor*ships*] ⌜Orator⌝ moste humb⟨...⟩ besecheth your wor*ships* that it wold please the same to graunte to yo*u*r poore orator the freedome of this ‸⌜Citye⌝ and to admitt him into the liberties of the said Citie as A freed[ome] man And in considerac*i*on therof yo*u*r Orator will constraine him self to geve to this incorporac*i*on xxvj s. viij d. and becom*e* A dutifull Citizen tradinge and occupiinge as is Aforesaid and will daily pray to god for yo*u*r worships

f [2v]

Thom*as* Bedle Bowier and maker of
Instrum*ent*es of Musick humblie craveth the freedome
of this Citie proferringe to geve for the same xxvj s. viij d.

°graunted 13 Iuly 1592°

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/21

mb [2]* *(17 October–13 October)*

Robert hill Taylior now Ald*erman* thereof for the Carrag howse at wolffs gate	ij s. vi d.
…	

mb [4]* *(Watergate Street)*

…	
vnpaid Nycolas Whyt m*er*chunt for a howse next adioyning to the drap*ers* carrage howse p*er* ann*um*	iij s. iiij d.

mb [7]* *(Payments)*

…	
It*em* to the stuard*es* of the sadlers toward*es* their bell	vj s. viij d.
It*em* for playinge one the drome at shroftide	vj d.
…	
It*em* to henry hamnet for gesper gyllome his gowne & for 13 yard*es* di. to the weatement & their Boyes	vj li. vij s.
…	
It*em* to morreys dauncers at mydsomer	vj s. viij d.
…	
It*em* to Thom*as* poole paynter for his Dewe for mydsom*er* watche	xliij s. iiij d.
…	
It*em* to walche for carryinge the Auntient at mydsom*er*	ij s.
It*em* to tyttle for playinge one the dromme then	xij d.
…	

single sheet *(Arrearages)*

…	
I*tem* of mr hill for his barne & caredge house	iii s. x d.
…	

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3

p 127 *(29 September–25 November)*

…	
It*em* bestowed vpon the earle of essex his musitions	ij s.
It*em* for wyne & sugar	ij s.
It*em* to the Quenes players	xl s.
…	

p 157 *(25 November–25 November) (Ordinary expenses)*

...

It*em* to the Waytes	xij d.

...

p 158 *(25 December–25 March) (Extraordinary expenses)*

...

Inpr*imis* to Iohn Wealch for 3. night*es* attendinge vpon the maior & Sheriffes in Christmas	xij d.
It*em* for the loane of harnes	xij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [28] *(13 January 1591/2–13 January 1592/3) (Receipts)*

...

It*em* Receved of ye Cowpers on midsomer even	xiij d.

...

It*em* Receved of Thomas Braband for owre Carredge	iij s.

...

f [28v] *(Payments)*

...

midsomer euen It*em* payde for a payre hosse for the Boye that did Ryde Before owre Company	x d.
It*em* payde for a payre of showss for ye Boye	x d.
It*em* payde for a payre of glooves for the boye	iij d.
It*em* payde for horssbred for ye horsse	iiij d.
It*em* spende at the dressinge of the Boye	vj d.
It*em* payde to ye foottman	iiij d.
It*em* payde to the Cryer at the Barres	j d.
It*em* geven to ye prisseners at ye Castle and norgat	viij d.
It*em* payde to ye minstrell	iiij d.
It*em* payde for dressinge owre Bannar	iij s.
It*em* spende on owre Company after ye watch	iij s. iiij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 100 *(11 November 1590–11 November 1591) (Expenses)*

...

It*em* giuen to the waitemen vpon St Martins Evene	xx d.

...

f 103 *(11 November 1591–11 November 1592)*

…	
Inpr*i*mis/ payed for a potell of Sacke at Thomas Tilstons din*er*	xx d.
It*em* giuen to the waite men At the fore fore said din*er*	ij s.
…	
It*em* payed for the glaves	v s.
It*em* payed for berrige of the glaves	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the waitemen vpon shroft thursdaye at o*ur* Ald*er*man Inc*es* house	ij s.
…	

f 103v

…	
It*em* payed to Thomas Ric*er*son for callinge vs at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the pr*i*soners at the Castle	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the pr*i*soners at the Northgate	xij d.
It*em* to the Musitioners for plainge before vs	ij s. vj d.
…	
It*em* payed for apayre of gloves for the childe	iij d.
It*em* payed for a payre ^⌜of⌝ buskins	xx d.
It*em* payed to the footeman for leadinge the horse	xij d.
…	
It*em* payed for horsbread	iiij d.
…	

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 29v *(1 August–1 August) (Charges on Midsummer eve)*

…	
Inpr*i*mis payed for the boyes hose & shewes	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* payed to Thomas poole for ouer banner	iij s.
It*em* payed to Iasp*er* Gillam	xij d.
It*em* for gloves for the boye	viij d.
It*em* payed to the woman that Ridd	viij d.
It*em* payed to the two devilles	viij d.
It*em* payed to the foote men	viij d.
It*em* payed for coierse cuppes	xvj d.
It*em* payed for the boyes garters	xij d.

5/ fore fore: *dittography*

9/ shroft thursdaye: *10 February 1591/2*

17/ giuen: e *altered from* g

It*e*m to mr Gamulles man for bringinge the Ciertall	iij d.
It*e*m payed for apound of gonnpother	xvj d.
It*e*m for the womans gloves	iij d.
It*e*m spent when the Child was in Dressinge in wyne and kakes	[xij d.] viij d.
It*e*m payed for ouer [dring] Drinckinge before & after ouer goinge to the barres	v s. iiij d.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 9 *(3 June)*

…

At ameetinge 1592 the 3 of Iune

It was ordered that euerie Brother shall fynde a man in harnesse vppon midsomer eve nexte to come/

Also that the drinckinge or Banquet shalbe hadd after the going about vppon Mydsomer eve, at the house of Will*ia*m Stevenson*ne*,

…

f 38* *(25 March 1592–25 March 1593) (Disbursements)*

…

It*e*m in pr*im*is one payre of hose for the Child	xvj d.
It*e*m for apayre of glooves to the Child on midsom*er* eve	vj d.
It*e*m for apayre of shooes to the same Child	xiiij d.
It*e*m to the mynstrell*es* on Mydsomer Eve	ij s.
It*e*m geaven to the p*re*soners at Castle & Northgate	vij d.
It*e*m geaven to the Cryer at the Barrs	ij d.
It*e*m geaven to apoorewoman at glou*er*stone	iij d.
It*e*m for aquarte of wyne at o*ur* banquet	vj d.
It*e*m to the mynstrell*es* at Thom*as* Edmund*es* dynn*er*	xviij d.
It*e*m for ij quart*es* of wyne at the same tyme	xvj d.
It*e*m more to the mynstrell afterward*es* the same tyme	ij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f 99 *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

…

It*e*m geaven to the musicians vppon St Lukes daie	xij d.

…

It*e*m for askynne to make the boye a Ierkine for mydsom*er*	vj d.

It*em* for the makinge of the Ierkyne for the boie	xiiij d.
It*em* spent for all the Companie at the widdowe Ieffreys	ij s. vj d.
It*em* more for apaire of hose to the boie at midsomer	xij d.
It*em* more for apaire of shooes to the boie at midsom*er*	viij d.
It*em* paid to the musicians at mydsomer	ij s. vj d.
It*em* paid at the Barrs on midsomer Eve to the Crier	ij d.
It*em* geven to the presoners at the Northgate	iiij d.
It*em* to the presoners at the Castle	iiij d.
It*em* deliuered to Robert waytes wief to helpe her child	v s.
It*em* geaven to the man that ledd the horse at midsomer	iiij d.
It*em* for dressinge the Staff for mydsomer	vj d.
It*em* spent on mydsomer eve for beeyre to ye companie	x d.
It*em* for breade at the tyme to the Companie	iiij d.
It*em* more at the same tyme for a Wort to ye Companie	vij d.
It*em* geven to the hench man for his pains & borrowing of apparell	xvj d.

...

Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 20/1

f 2v* *(3 July)*

...

Midsomer Eve

17. It*em* it is fullie agreed vpon the same daye, that everie Brother of our Companie shall Come with an Armed Manne to the Com*m*on Hall lane End before the watch to attend vpon the Aldermen and steward*es* and the rest of the Brethren in payne of fforfeytinge ij s. vj d.

...

1592–3

Letter of Cause against Richard Wright, Innkeeper CCALS: ZML 5/116

single sheet

Causes wherfore Richa*r*d Wright is not fit to be suffered to
Kepe A Com*m*on Inne

Inp*ri*mis he hath benne and yet is A Carnall vicious man
It*em* he hath Maintained & kept mens ser*uantes* in his howse by night, dawnsinge & Banquettinge and is A Resetter & receiver of oth*er* mens good*es* brought to his house by mens Apprentices & suffers the same to be ther laciviously spent and geven away
It*em* he and his wief as Inkep*ers* having benne brought in quest*io*n for ther lous gou*ernmen*t in ther hows keping haue answered that they haue kept

open [ther] ther doors aswell by nyght as by daie for all p*er*sons not regarding who com*e* into ther hows nor goeth thens, (denying that they wold Answer for the[⟨..⟩] gou*ern*ment of ther ow⟨..⟩ howse
Item the said Wright is Indicted at A quarter Sess*io*ns holden w*i*thin the City of Chester for maintaining of evell Rul in his house & for resettinge of mens seru*au*ntes therin at Vnlefull tyms in the night and for kepinge of Bawdry in his house
…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [29] *(13 January 1592/3–13 January 1593/4) (Payments)*

…

midsomer even	It*em* spend on owre Company on midsomar euen afteer the watche	iij s. iiij d.
	It*em* for ⌜on⌝ payre hosse for ye chylde	xx d.
	It*em* for on payre showsse for ye chylde	xij d.
	It*em* for on payre Gloves for the chylde	iiij d.
	It*em* for horss Bread	iiij d.
	It*em* fo to ye prisseneres at ye Castle and norgate	viij d.
	It*em* for on quart sa̍cke when wee Brought whom ye chyld	viij d.
	It*em* to ye cryer at the Barres	j d.
	It*em* spend when the chylde was on dressinge	iiij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
ff 105–5v *(11 November–11 November)*

…

Inpr*i*mis payed for a potell of wyne at o*u*r Ald*e*rman Incis house the xiijth daye of November	xvj d.
It*e*m payed to the Musitioners the same daye	ij s.

…

It*e*m giuen to the Musitioners at the time that Iohn Burchenhead made his drinkinge	ij s.

…

It*e*m payed for Glaves	v s. iiij d.
It*e*m giuen to the Musitioners at shroftide	ij s.

…

It*e*m payed to Thomas Poole for gildinge the staffe	x d.

2–3/ (denying … howse: *closing parenthesis omitted*
37/ shroftide: *25–7 February 1592/3*

It*em* payed for a quarte of sacke w*hi*ch was bestowed vpon Mr Brocke for lendinge a Cappe & other Iewels for the childe	viij d. |
It*em* payed for a payre of glooves	iij d.
It*em* payed for a payre of buskins	ij s.
It*em* payed at dressinge the Childe	iiij d.
…	
It*em* payed to Ric*er*son the Crier	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the pr*i*soners at the Castell and Northgate	ij s.
It*em* spent vpon Midsom*er* Even at o*ur* Ald*er*mans house	ij s. vj d.
It*em* giuen to the footmen	xij d.
…	
It*em* payed for horsebread & shooinge ye horse	viij d.
It*em* payed to the Musitioners	ij s. vj d.
…	

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 33 *(1 August–1 August)*

…	
Item for mendinge o*ur* Can to the Cowp*er* and smyth	xj d.
ffor a peire of garteres for the boy	ij s. vj d.
ffor showes and hoose	ij s. x d.
[⟨…⟩] ffor Arsedine to dresse the boy and the horse sadle cloth	xiiij d.
ffor gloves to the boy	viij d.
ffor ‸⌈vth dozen⌉ Cupes to breake	ij s. vj d.
ffor sylke and [thed] threde to dresse the child	vj d.
ffor wyne shouger and L cakes	xij d.
ffor dressinge the boy	
ffor dressinge the Banner	ij s. viij d.
ffor a Peare of gloves to the woman that ‸⌈[⟨…⟩]⌉	
Ridd *(blank)* & his waggs	viij d.
It*em* to the tow foot men	viij d.
It*em* to the tow Deviles	viij d.
It*em* to the minstrells	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* A pounde of gonnpowder	xvj d.
It*em* to Iesp*er* gillam for Cuttinge the Tinsild	viij d.
It*em* for Drynke at y*a*t tyme	iiij d.
It*em* for the Drynkinge appon mydsom*er* even of o*ur* company	viij s.
It*em* geven to mr gamull man for bringinge the Curtall	iij d.
It*em* for tow penworth horsbread	ij d.

40/ gamull: *6 minims in* MS

It*e*m at glover stone to ye pr*is*n*ers*	iiij d.
It*e*m to the norgate	iiij d.
It*e*m to The Cryer at bares	ij d.
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 40 *(25 March 1593–25 March 1594) (Charges)*

…	
It*e*m for apaire of Shooes to the child for mydsomer eve	[jx iiij d.] ix d.
It*e*m for apayre of hose for the Child at the same tyme	xiiij d.
It*e*m for apaire of Glooues to the childe for mydsomer eve	iij d.
It*e*m paid to the mynstrell*es* on mydsomer eve	ij s.
It*e*m paid to Lewis Bennett for leading the child	iiij d.
It*e*m paid for horse breade on mydsomer eve	ij d.
It*e*m paide for the Company at the Northgate & the Castle	vj d.
…	
It*e*m for the fetching of the horse out of the Countrey	iiij d.
It*e*m geaven to the Crier . at the Barrs	ij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [101] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

…	
It*e*m in pr*im*is for apaire of hose	xvj d.
It*e*m apayre of shooes	x d.
It*e*m for a Ierkyne	iij s. viij d.
It*e*m to the Crier.	ij d.
…	
It*e*m for fringe to the Banner & sowing	xvj d.
It*e*m for Drincking on mydsom*er* eve	v s./
…	
for the painting the staff	vj d.
…	
On mydsomer eve to the musicions	ij s.
…	
To the preesson*ers* at Castle & Northgate	viij d.
…	

1593–4

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 1/22
mb [1] *(12 October–11 October) (Eastgate Street)*

...

The stuard*es* of the taylors for ther caredge house ii s. vj d.

...

mb [3d]

...

It*em* to the stuard*es* of the sadlers this ixth of february towardes their bell vj s. viij d.

...

It*em* to tyttle for playinge one the drome at shroftyde vj d.

...

It*em* to Thomas poole paynter for his yearelye fee for settinge fourthe the watche at mydsom*er* xliij s. iiij d.

...

It*em* to the morrys dauncers at midsom*er* vj s. viij d.

...

It*em* to tyttle for the playinge one the drome at mydsom*er* xij d.
It*em* to welche for carryinge the Auntient at mydsom*er* ij s.
It*em* for mendinge the staffe of the antient beinge broken iij d.

...

It*em* to m*aste*r maior for clothe had of hime for the iiijor *se*riant*es* gownes and for the wheate mens gownes xiij li. xiij s. vj d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [30] *(13 January 1593/4–13 January 1594/5)*

...

[Inprymes bovght a shvtte of a parille a genste messemer even 〈...〉]
It*em* peed for a perre of shovsses for the chilld x d.
It*em* peed for a perre of hosses for the child xij d.
It*em* for a pere of Glovffes ij d.
It*em* for triminge the staffe for the bannare iiij d.

13/ shroftyde: *10–12 February 1593/4*

It*em* Ledovne for ovre compenye a pone messemer evene	iiij s.
It*em* peed for horsse bridd	ij d.
It*em* Gave vnto the fouteman that held the child	iiij d.
It*em* gave vnto the criare at the barsses	ij d.
It*em* gave vnto the prisinars at the castille and nore gatte	viij d.
It*em* gave vnto the menstrillis	viij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 107* *(11 November–11 November)*

…

Inp*r*imis, payed at Mr Edward Benetes house the daye Iohn Birchenhed had his Din*er* to the Musition*ers*	xvj d.

…

It*em* giuen to the Musitioners at Thomas Iohnsons drinkynge	xij d.
It*em* payed for the glaves	v s.
It*em* giuen for the berige of the glaves	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the watemen at Shroftide	ij s.
It*em* giuen to Henrie Shurlocke the same time	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to William Vrmston and Thomas Iohnson for servinge at Shroftide	vj d.

…

It*em* [giuen to] ^⌜spent vpon⌝ Thomas Chon*er* when we talked w*i*th him abovt our ban*ner*	j d.

…

f 107v

…

It*em* payed for a payre of gloves vpon Midsom*er* even for the childe	iij d.

…

It*em* for dressinge the childe	ij d.
It*em* payed to the Crier at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the p*r*isoners at the Castell and Northgate	ij s.
It*em* payed to two footemen	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the Musitioners the same night	ij s. vj d.

21, 24/ Shroftide: *10–12 February 1593/4*

It*e*m payed for a potell of sacke the same night	xvj d.
It*e*m payed for a payre of buskins for the child	xx d.

...

It*e*m giuen to the Musitioners at William Vrmstons Din*er*	ij s.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 35 *(1 August–1 August)* *(Payments)*

...

It*e*m payed for vj doussen of Cvppes to searve afore Compenye one mydsomer even at iij d. a doussen some is	xviij d.
It*e*m payed for horsbred for the horse the womane dyd Ryde vppone one mydsomer even	iiij d.
payed for a littell Cane to hange abowt the womanes necke one mydsomer even	ij d.
payed for a brode bande of Lace for the Cane	iij d.
payed for payntinge the cane	ij d.
spent at the Bares vppone our companye afore ye wache	iiij d.
payd to the Cryer at the Bares iiij d. to the presoneres at the castell iiij d. to the presoneres at the northe gat iiij d.	xij d.
payed to the mynstrell to goe afore our companye	xij d.
payed to the womane that dyd Ryde	x d.
payed to iij men wheare of ij weare dye men and the other dyd carye the potes in a [⟨.⟩] baskete	xv d.
payed for a peare of gloves to the womane that dyd Ryd	iiij d.
payed for our drynkinge one mydsomer even at nyght afore the wache	vj s.

f 36* *(Receipts)*

...

There wase delyuered to Iohn myllner and to edward Dvtton one the Covmpt daie the some of xxxvj s. xj d.

more the are to alowe vs for ij li. of gvnpovllder	ij s. viij d.
more for [ij] a peare of garteres	ij s. vj d.
more for a nother peare of garteres	xij d.
more Iohn myllner is to paye for not comynge withe our compenye one mydsomer even	xij d.

...

33–4/ the Covmpt daie: *1 August 1593*

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 42v *(25 March 1594–25 March 1595) (Charges)*

...

Item	ffyrst paid for the Busquyns to the Child	ij s.
	moore paid for Glooves to the Child	iij d.
	moore to the mynstrells on mydsomer eve	ij s. vj d.
	for aquart of Sack . at the Banckquet	viij d.
	to the preesoners . at the Northgate	iij d.
	to the Presoners . at the Castle	iiij d.
	to the Cryeo*ur* at the Barrs	ij d.
	spent at the attyringe of the child for aquart of ⌊wyne⌋	vj d.
	spent on ij men . for the leading & conducting the child	vj d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [103] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*em* in pr*im*is on St luk*es* daie to the musitians	xij d.
It*em* for mydsomer eve Chardges in meate drinck &c.	iij s. vj d.
It*em* for horse breade on mydsomer Eve	iiij d.
It*em* paide to the mynstrell on mydsomer eve	vj d.
It*em* to the presoners at Castle & Northgate	viij d.
It*em* to the Crier at the Barrs	iiij d.

...

It*em* to Edward dawbie for going on stiltes	ij s. vj d.
It*em* spent at the Dressing of the Childe	iiij d.

...

It*em* for apeire & hose and shooes to the child	xx d.
It*em* for apeire of glooves to the Childe	iij d.

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 5/46

ff [1–1v]* *(4 October) (Examination of Richard Preston)*

Taken at Chester

...

Exa*mine*d where he dwelleth & what is his p*ro*fession Saith at warington & is A [pip] Musici*on*

Exa*mine*d what abuse was offred vnto him sins his repaire to that Citie Saith about [ix of] xth of the clock in the night vpon Tewsdaie laste this exa*mina*te

---

40/ Tewsdaie laste: *1 October 1594*

& his com*pa*ney were planinge vpon there instrument*es* vp [thestgate] St warburg lane out of the Eastgate street toward*es* their hoste foxall his howse And saith in that Lane Mr Will*ia*m Hicock clerk ^⌜who came out of Iohn Stils Tavern⌝ over toke them and spake to this exa*mina*t*e* and requested this exa*mina*t*e* to Lend him this exa*mina*t*es* Treble violen to plaie vpon and this exa*mina*te so did ^⌜whoe plaied very excelent well theron⌝ and this exa*mina*t*e* did plaie to him vpon the base vp that lane & vp the north gatestreet vntill they cam*e* very nere the sad foxall*es* howse ^[⌜whoe plaied excelent well vpon that instrument And⌝] wher the said Mr hicok redeliu*er*ed to this exa*mina*t*e* the said violen w*hi*ch this exa*mina*t*e* gaue to his boy wherevpon this exa*mina*t*e* vpon curtesie did take the said Mr-hicock by the cloke & willed him to goe w*i*th him into his Ostes howse to drinke w*i*th him/ and thervpon [this ex] he denied so to doe and p*re*sent strok vp this exa*mina*t*es* heeles with his foote wherre⌜by⌝ this exa*mina*te fell and [w*i*th that f] w*i*th that fall this exa*mina*t*es* sword was broken and therw*i*th the same mr hicok drew out this exa*mina*t*es* broken sword & toke it in his hand*es* and dep*ar*ted therw*i*th as far as his owne howse and this exa*mina*te folowed him & spake him faier in that he knew not whoe he was and saith then Mr hicok went into his owne howse & caused a Candle to be Lighted & lockt his owne dore & said Loe now none can make me cookoulde & thervpon cam*e* forth to this exa*mina*te againe & went vp w*i*th him to the said foxal*es* howse wher this exa*mina*t*e* charged him w*i*th the breking of his sword & Mr hicok said that he this exa*mina*te did but iest ther was none suche matt*er* & in ende Mr hicok semed to offer violens to this exa*mina*te but in ende dep*ar*ted And saith that as yet Mr hicok kepeth from this exa*mina*te his blade hilte & scabard

(signed) Davyd lloyd Maior
(signed) Ed*ward* Gamull I

Iohn Moran ex*amin*ed & Sworne towchinge the p*re*misse*s*.
Deposeth that vpon wednesdaie last past in that morninge Mr Will*ia*m hicok spak to this exa*mina*te and told him how that the night before ther had happened some Discortesy betwene him & the form*er* exa*mina*te preston wherevpon this exa*mina*te repared to the said preston and after the Discorse of the matter the said preston was contented to refer those caus*es* to this exa*mina*t*e* & the said mr hicok was likwise contented So this exa*mina*t*e* traveled betwene them & made agrem*en*t in this sort that Mr hicok shuld geue vnto the said preston A whole blade ^⌜that night⌝ vpon condic*i*on that those caus*es* of abuse shuld goe no further nor further matter to be made in that behalf & thervpon this exa*mina*t*e* saith that Mr hicok did tak away the broken Sword & [⟨..⟩] Scabard w*hi*ch were brought to this exa*mina*t*es* chamb*er* before & thens ther received by the said mr hicok And saith further that his order was

1/ planinge: *for* playinge

29/ wednesdaie last past: *2 October 1594* that thay shuld be lovers and frends & made them drink togeth*er* & semed to be both well pleased

(signed) Iohn Moran

1594–5

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [31] *(13 January 1594/5–13 January 1595/6)*

…

It*em* ledovn for a pere of hosses for the child at messemare	xvj d.
It*em* for a pere of svsse at the sam tym	x d.
It*em* ped for bred b⟨.⟩er and a chesses at that tym	v s. iiij d.
It*em* ledovn for the compenye in ovre allderman lynikars	viij d.
It*em* gave vnto the Criare at the barsses	ij d.
It*em* gave vnto prissenars at the Castille a norgate	viij d.
It*em* ped vnto the menstrille	vj d.
It*em* ped for a pere of glovsses for the child	iij d.
It*em* ped for tryminge the staffe for ovre banare	vj d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 108v *(11 November–11 November)*

…

Inp*r*imis payed for wine the same daye Thomas Iohnson makinge his din*er*	ij s. viij d.
It*em* giuen to the Musitioners the same daye	xvj d.
It*em* giuen to Henrie Shurlocke the same daye	iiij d.

…

It*em* giuen to the musitioners at shroftide	ij s.
It*em* giuen to the stewardes of the Iovrnemen for servinge the same time	vj d.

…

f 109

…

Expenc*es* vpon Midsom*er* evene

It*em* a payre of gloves	iij d.
It*em* for silke & lace	iij d.
It*em* payed to the Crier	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the p*r*isoners at the Castell & Northgate	ij s.
It*em* giuen to the footemen	xij d.

28/ shroftide: *2–4 March 1594/5*

It*em* giuen to the Musitioners	ij s. vj d.
It*em* In Saike	ij s. viij d.
It*em* the childes buskins	xx d.
It*em* for dressinge of the staffe	viij d.

…

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 37* *(1 August–1 August) (Payments)*

…

	It*em* spent the aldermane Bryde in Borowinge the dye manes svte a gaynest mydsomer even	iiij d.

…

mydsomer even	It*em* payed for vij doussen of Cvppes to bee Brocken one mydsomer even withe the womane that Ryd afore our compenye	[xij d.] [xiiij d.] xx d.
	It*em* payed for the hyer of the horse the womane Ryd vppon a fore our Compenye and for horsbred	x d.
	payed for the hyer of ij dyemenes cotes and for there houdes the some of	xij d.
	payed to the mynstrell to go a ffore our compenye one mydsomer even	xij d.
	It*em* payd to the womane that Ryd afore our compenye	x d.
	payed for a neve peare of gloves for the womane	iiij d.
	payed for ij dyemen to a tend vppone the womane and for a mane to Carye the Cvppes	xvj d.
	payed for our banckete one mydsomer even afore the wache to the bretherne and after the wache whene the came whome	x s.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 44v* *(25 March 1595–25 March 1596) (Charges)*

…

It*em* ffirst payd ffor a payre of busquins to the child	ij s.
It*em* payd ffor a payre of gloves	x d.
It*em* payd ffor aquarte of wine & sugar att the dressinge of the child	viij d.
It*em* payd to the cryer att the barres	ij d.
It*em* given to the prisoners att the castle & the northgate	vij d.
It*em* payd ffor aquart of wine att our*e* banquett	vj d.
It*em* payd to aman to lead the horse & to cary the banner	iiij d.
It*em* payd to the musicke ffor ther play	ij s. vj d.

…

(29 June)

Will*ia*m Stevenson Will*ia*m Leverpoole Ric*hard* Garffeild	ffyned – iij d. apeece for not having their harnest men on mydsomer eve all iiij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [105] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

Item for the boyes Hose at midsomer	j s.	x d.
Item ffor a paire of Gloves	0	iiij d.
Item A payre of Shewes	0	x d.
Item ffor paintinge of the Staff	0	iiij d.
Item to the Crier at the Barres	0	ij d.
Item to the prisoners at north*gate* and Castle	0	viij d.
Item to the musitions	j s.	ij d.
Item to the 3 men that Guyded the boy	j s.	iiij d.
Item to him that brought the horse	0	ij d.

...

1595–6

Petition of Christopher Burton, Wait, to the Mayor and Council

CCALS: ZAP 2/4

single sheet* *(17 October 1595)*

To the right wor*shipfull* Mr Will*ia*m Aldersay maior of the Citie of Chester and the Aldermen sheriff*es* & com*m*on Concell of the same Citie

In moste humble wise besecheth your wor*ships* Your poore suppliant chr*isto*fer Burton late one of the waitmen of the same Citie That whereas y*our* said suppliant hath longe time ben admitted for one of the company of waitemen attending y*our* wor*ships* by y*our* wor*ships* good likinge & appointem*ent* and therin contin*u*ed maried w*i*th an honeste mans daught*er* [s] w*i*thin this Citie and by her hath a great nomb*er* of smale childre*n* and being brought vp in the same exercise & having none oth*er* trade to get his living w*i*th all was vpon Abuses him self dysplased and deprived thereof worthely deservinge the same for w*hi*ch abuse he is abaished and reformed and is by the want of the said office fallen into great want & pou*er*tie as also into debt not hable to recover nor any waies to maintane his wif & childr*en* but to suffer them to goe abegging except y*our* wor*ships* reliff in this behalf/ wherfore y*our* said suppliant moste humbly besecheth y*our* wor*ships* for god*es* sake & in the name of charitie to restore yo*ur* said suppliant to the said charg as one of the wait*es* of this Citie as form*er*ly he hath bene for the better reliff of him his wief & child*ren* & yo*ur* suppliant wilbecom most dutiful & behaue him self according to his dutie and will daily pray to god for yo*ur* wor*ships* & his wief & child*ren* shall doe the like

°differred°

Petition of Christopher Burton, Wait, to the Mayor and Council

CCALS: ZAP 2/30

f [1] *(8 October 1596)*

> To the right wor*shipfull* mr Will*ia*m Aldersey Maior of the Citie of Chester and the Aldermen Sheriff*es* & Comon Councell of the same Citie

In moste humble wise, besecheth your wor*ships* your [yo*ur*] poore seru*a*nt and daily beadman chr*ist*ofer Burton late one of the wait*es* w*i*thin the said Citie attendinge your wor*ships* That where yo*ur* orater heretofore hath ben of the same compeny And for some Cause was of the said compeny restrained & from them put out And having none oth*er* meanes to maintaine him self & A nomb*er* of smale motherles childre*n* then by the said trade Therfore your orat*er* moste humblie besecheth yo*ur* wor*ships* for god*es* sak and in the Name of Charitie to restore yo*ur* orator to the Compeny of yo*ur* wor*ships* waytmen w*i*thin the same Citie and as one of that nomb*er* as form*er*ly he was for the better Maintenans of him self & his poore smale Childre*n* and yo*ur* orat*er* will both daily pray to god for yo*ur* wor*ships* as also will so conforme him self in the maner of his livinge As yo*ur* wor*ships* shall therby the better like of him/ Also yo*ur* orat*er* putteth yo*ur* wor*ships* to vnd*er*stand that where yo*ur* orat*er* sonne is by yo*ur* wor*ships* put over to the said waitmen to vse that trade and to saue for his paines & travell certaine Somes of money w*hi*ch yo*ur* wor*ships* intended to be bestowed towards the relef of his poore brethre*n* & susters/ he the same boy so wantonly and extraordenaryly daily wasteth his such gaine and money as neith therw*i*th doeth him self good nor any of his/ Wherfore yo*ur* orat*er* moste humbly besecheth yo*ur* wor*ships* all to take order that the waytmen maie paie over such money due to the boy to this yo*ur* orat*er* that the same may be expended as is most nedfull for his the boys benefit & good & to the relif of the rest of his brethr*en* & susters And this for god*es* love

> °8 octob*er* 1596 M*aste*r Maior will take order for the better gouernment of the Boy°

33/ neith: *for* neither; *abbreviation mark omitted*

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [32] *(13 January 1595/6–13 January 1596/7)*

...	
It*em* ped for bred beare & ches at messemar	vj s. viij d.
It*em* ped for a pere of svches at messemare for the chyld	x d.
It*em* ped vnto the menstrille at that daye	viij d.
...	
It*em* ped for a pere of hoves for the chyld at messemar	xij d.
...	
It*em* gave vnto the criare at the bares	ij d.
It*em* gave vnto the pressnares at the castill and norgatt	viij d.
It*em* for lonne of the horsse at messemare	viiij d.
...	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 110v *(11 November–11 November)*

...	
Inpr*i*mis the said day for wine at Dauy Allens din*ner*	xx d.
Item giuen to the Musition*er*s the said daye	ij s.
Item giuen to Henry shurlocke the same daye	iiij d.
...	
Item giuen vnto Christopher the waite man	xij d.
...	
Item payde to the Musitioners the same daye Richard Wildinge had his drinkinge	xviij d.
...	
Item payed for a pottell of Sacke at Bradford Thropes drinkinge	xx d.
Item giuen to the Musitioners the same daye	ij s.
Item giuen to the Musitioners at Shroftide	ij s. vj d.
Item giuen to Henry Shurlocke	iiij d.
Item payed for the glaves	v s.
Item giuen to the barage of the glaves	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the Iournemen of the shoomakers for *ser*uynge at Shroftide	vj d.
...	

f 111

...

Expence*s* vpon Midsom*er* Even.

5/ svches: *for* schves *(?)*

19/ the said day: *ie, election day, 11 November 1595*

30, 35/ Shroftide: *22–4 February 1595/6*

Item for bowning the childe	iiij d.
Item for gildinge the staffe	vj d.
Item for a payre of gloves	viij d.
Item for a payre of buskins	ij s. vj d.
Item spent at Woodcoches	iij d.
Item for leadinge the horse & houldinge the childe	xij d.
Item for horse bread	iiij d.
Item giuen to the Crier	xij d.
Item giuen to the pr*is*oners at the Castell	xij d.
Item giuen to the pr*is*oners at the northgate	xij d.
Item giuen to the Musitioners	ij s. vj d.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 39 *(1 August–1 August)* *(Receipts)*

...

Res*eived* of the allewyffes this yeare agenest mydsomer as a pereth by there names	ix s. vij d.

...

f 40 *(Payments)*

...

It*em* payed for goddartes to bee Broken at mydsomer	xviij d.
payed for a peare of gloves for the womane that Ryde afore our compenye one mydsomer even	iiij d.
geven to the horse the womane Ryd vppone in brede iiij d. and to the myllner for fechinge hyme owt of the ffelldes iiij d. some is	viij d.
geven to the stuartes of the weaveres for the dye manes covte and heade pese	vj d.
spent vppone our compenye one mydsomer even withe owt the bares and vppone the womane and the die mane & harnest men	x d.
payed to the womane that Ryd afore our compenye	x d.
payed to the mane that caryed the dye manes covte	vj d.
payed to the boye that caryed the cvppes	iiij d.
spent in Charges affore the wache and afte the wache vppone the harnest mene and the Rest	iiij s.
[sp] payed to our mynstrell to playe a fore our compenye	xij d.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 49 *(25 March 1596–25 March 1597) (Charges)*

...

It*em* in pr*im*is for Cloathe to make our Banner vpon	iiij s.
It*em* for the ffringe to the same Banner	xx d.
It*em* for Buckram to the socket and soyinge the banner	x d.
It*em* geaven to the Berrage at the making the banner	iiij d.
It*em* paid for apaire of Stocking*es* to the child that Roade	ij s. viij d.
It*em* for apayre of Shooes to the same childe	xij d.
It*em* payd for Gloves	iiij d.
It*em* p*ay*d ffor aquart of white wyne bestowed in borrowing the boy	viij d.
It*em* bestowed on mr Oldfeldes man that attended the childe in gloves	iiij d.
It*em* paid to Lewis for Carrynge the banner	iiij d.
It*em* paid for leading of the horse	ij d.
It*em* geaven to the Cryer at the barrs	ij d.
It*em* geeven to the presoners at the Castle	iiij d.
It*em* geeven to the presoners at the Northgate	iij d.
It*em* geaven to the mynstrells	ij s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [13v]* *(7 June)*

...

°at a metinge the x of aprill 1610 by consent of the wholl companey that this order shall stand firmly w*i*thout altering and the companey to mett ⟨.⟩t aney howere the steuards shall apoynt the same daye°†

It was ordered and Agreed: by a generall consent that every brother should betwene the Howres of ffoure and five a Clock on the Eive of St Ihon Baptist p*er*sonally A peire in theire best Attire with a man ffurnished redy to geve theire Attendant*es* on theire Alderman and by theme to be directed ffurder and for Default therof it is by consent Aforesaid Agreid that Every p*er*son so offendinge shall pay ffor Every his offence ij s. v d.

...

f [107] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*em* to the Cryer on mydsomer eve	ij d.
It*em* to the presoners at bothe places	viij d.

28/ companey: p *corrected from* y

31/ betwene: *3 minims in* MS

It*e*m to The mynstrells on midsomer eve	x d.
It*e*m for ij paire of glooves to the ffoteman and to the childe that roade for vs	vj d.
It*e*m for hose and shooes to the childe	ij s.
It*e*m for rybband to tie about the child*es* hede	ij d.

...

Inventory of Hugh Bellott, Bishop of Chester CCALS: WS 1596
p 4 *(24 June)* *(In the drying chamber)*

...

⟨.⟩tem a payre of Vyrginalles	⟨..⟩x s.

...

1596–7

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 243v *(8 October)*

...

°Playes and bearebeat*es* restrayned°

Alsoe where by daylie experience it hath fallen out what great inconvenences there haue Arrysen by playes and bearebeat*es* w*i*thin this Citie besides how the Magistrates in open pulpitt*es*, Haue bene exclaymed vpon for sufferinge the same w*i*thin this Citie prouinge the same playes and bearebeat*es* contrary to god*es* Lawes and the Comen Wealth ffor reformac*i*on whereof it is nowe fully ordered by this whole Assembly, that hensforth w*i*thin this Citie there shalbe neither play nor bearebeat vpon the Cities charges, and that noe Citizen hensforth vpon payne of punishm*en*t and fyne shall repayre out of this Citie nor out of the Lib*er*ties or franches thereof to any play or bearebeate And yet notw*i*thstandinge because yt shall not be alledged that this restraynte is for sparinge of the treasury of this Citie, It is ordered that it shalbe Lawfull for the Maior of this Citie for the tyme beinge to appoynt to be geuen in rewarde to her Ma*iestes* players repayringe to this Citie twentie shillinges and to any noble mens players sixe shilling*es* eighte pence and not aboue/

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 193 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Inp*ri*mis the xxviij^th^ day of December to Richerd Woodes for 3 nightes attendinge vpon ye maior & Sheriffes in Christmas	xij d.
It*e*m to Richerd Richerdson for loane of harnes	xx d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [33] *(13 January 1596/7–13 January 1597/8) (Payments)*

...

Inp*ri*mis for making our baner and for all things belonging to it	ij li. iij s. x d.
Item paied for the boyes cloues	x s.

...

Item our charges on midsomer Eve and for hosse and sues for the boye and other charges	xvij s. iiij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2

f 112v *(11 November–11 November)*

...

It*em* giuen to the musitioners the same day	iij s.
Item spent in wine vpon the cremac*i*on daye Bradford Throppe makeinge his din*er*	iiij s. iiij d.
Item giuen to the Musition*er*s	xij d.

...

Ite*m* payed for glaves	v s.
Ite*m* giuen to the barige of the glaves	iiij d.
Ite*m* giuen to the Musitioners at shroftide	ij s. vj d.

...

f 113

...

Ite*m* payed for a payre of hoses for the childe vpone Midsom*er* Even	xviij d.
Ite*m* payed for a payre of gloves	vj d.
Ite*m* payed for a payre of shoes	vj d.
Ite*m* payed for arsideine	vj d.
Ite*m* payd for gildinge the staffe	vj d.
Ite*m* payed for horsbread	iiij d.
Ite*m* spent in drinke at the bares [vpon ye child]	v d.
Ite*m* giuen to the Crier at ye barres	iiij d.
Ite*m* giuen to the pr*i*son*er*s at the Castell	xij d.
Ite*m* giuen to the pr*i*soners at the Northgate	xij d.
Ite*m* giuen to two men for leadinge the horse	xx d.

15/ the same day: *ie, election day, 11 November 1596*

22/ shroftide: *6–8 February 1596/7*

Ite*m* payed for sacke vpon Midsom*er* even at the banket at o*ur* Aldman Mr Allens house	xx d.
Ite*m* giuen to the Musitioners the same daye	ij s. vj d.

...

Wet and Dry Glovers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 11/1
p 9 *(10 January)*

...

An Order conc*er*ninge Midsomer Eve

Memorandu*m* It is ordered and by Consent of the whole Companie agreed vppon That whosoeu*er* Cometh not p*er*sonallie vppon Midsom*er* eve to attend vppon the Maior of the Cyttie att the Watche, and goeth not the Circuite w*i*th the rest of his Bretheren accordinge to auncient Costome (except he haue areasonable and Iust Cause to the Contrarie) shall forfeite and pay for afine ffive shilling*es* And what brother soeu*er* bringe they not forth his harnest man vppon the foresaid even accordinge to old Custome, Shall pay for his fyne xij d. And that the Steward*es* Shall att the next meetinge after bringe in the names of all such as offend and breake the order/

...

Innkeepers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 13/1
f [29v] *(8 June)*

...

None to be absent from the watch on Midsom*er* eve†

penaltie
for a brother –
ij s.
for an Alderm*an*
– iij s. iiij d.

Item It is ordered and agreed vpon That euerie Brother of the said Companie that shall be absent at the watch vpon Midsomer Eve at the howre appoynted shall forfeitt for euerie offence ij s., And the Aldermen – iij s. iiij d. a peece

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38
ff 41–1v* *(1 August–1 August) (Payments)*

...

payed to the minstrelles after our meitinge at our brother scuelles howse by the a povyntmente of our alderman and bretherne the 23 of Ianuarye	vj d.

...

payed to Robert lyche for makinge ij demens heades	x s. |
payed for viij yeardes of canvas to make ij dye menes Covtes of at vj d. a yeard	iiij s.

16/ they: *for* then

39/ demens: *2 minims for* m *in* MS

payed for makinge of theme	ij s.
geven to the beredge of the Covtes and heade pesses	xj d.
payed for the pentinge of the ij covtes beinge Layed in oryell	vj s. viij d.
payed for viij dousen of Cvppes to brecke at iij d. a Dousen some is	ij s.
payed for pentinge of the Clvbe	viij d.
geven to the Cryer at the Bares iiij d. at the northgat iiij d. at the castell iiij d.	xij d.
geven to the womane to Ryd afore our compenye	x d.
payed for a pere of gloves for the womane	iiij d.
payed to ij dye mene	xij d.
payed to amane to carrie our cvppes	iiij d.
payed for the horse brede for the horse and to the myllner	viij d.
payed for pines to drese the wom*an*s clothes abowte heare and to piyne the dye [mes] menes covtes	j d.
payed for bred dryncke and chese for the womane ij dye mene and he that caryed cvpes withe the harnest mene	[x] s. vj s.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 52 *(25 March 1597–25 March 1598) (Charges)*

...

It*em* for apaire of hose to the childe that Roade at midsomer	xxij d.
It*em* for apaire of Shooes to the same childe	xiij d.
It*em* for apaire of Glooves for the same childe	v d.
It*em* spente at the bounninge of the childe in white wyne & sug*er*	x d.
It*em* at the barrs to the Crier*e*	ij d.
It*em* . at bothe presons bestowede Castle & Northgate	vij d.
It*em* to the ij men . for holding the child & leading the horse	viij d.
It*em* to the Mynstrell*es* on Mydsomer*e* eve	iij s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [108] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*em* in pr*im*is vpon St Lukes daie at o*ur* brother Basnett*es* dynner for apotle of Secke at wydow Alcok*es*	xx d.

It*em* to the waytes of the Cittie The same daie	xviij d.
It*em* spent on Wyne at o*ur* brothers hanckok*es* din*er*	xx d.
It*em* geven to the mynstrells at y*a*t tyme	xij d.
It*em* for apayre of hose to the childe at midsom*er*	xij d.
It*em* for apaire of Shoes to the same childe	x d.
It*em* for Gloves	v d.
It*em* bestowede on him that ledd the horse	ij d.
It*em* for makinge apayre of breeches	ij d.
It*em* to the presoners at bothe places	viij d.
It*em* for horse breade	iiij d.
It*em* for breade and Cheese at the steward*es* house	xx d.
It*em* at o*ur* ald*erman* Leches for ale	vj d.
It*em* at the Barrs	iij d.
It*em* to the musicians on the eve	xviij d.
It*em* more for ale on midsom*er* eve at o*ur* ald*erman* Leches	ij s. ij d.

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 5/82

f [1] *(6 May)*

...

Thom*as* yemouth beinge examined where he dwellethe saythe in vn*der*thorborse within the co*unty* of derbye/ fyve myles fro*m* derbye/ being examyned whether he was maryed saythe he ys/ & hathe byn nere ij yeres past/ butt hathe no children/ & that she ys xxx myles fro*m* his howse at fargery/ being greved in hir legges of a dropsye/ & he sayth he gave her at his dep*ar*ture v s./ a fortnyght past/ & his howse he saythe ys kept by his mother & saythe he ys a mynstrell & dothe vse to playe vpon the bagpipes/ w*hi*ch instrument he left at home/ being examyned when he sett fro*m* home [last] saythe vpon wensdaye last/ in co*m*pany w*i*th one Ryc*har*d Radfort/ a husbandman/ & cam directly to chester/ & yesterdaye last aboute*s* xij of the cloke cam to this cytye a fote/ all the waye/ being demanded how he behaved him selfe & whatt bargans he made after his com*m*yng to the cytye sayth he bought a new payre of botte*s*/ a payre of spurres/ & ij saddels/ & iiij gyrthes/ beinge demanded what money he brought w*i*th him to this cytye saythe aboute*s* xxiij s./ & brought fro*m* home in all aboute*s* xxv s./ being demanded what bridels or colors he bought in the cytye/ or brought w*i*th him/ saythe he bought non in the cyty/ but brought fro*m* home a brydell w*hi*ch the man caryed on his sleve/ & saythe he had w*i*th him fro*m* home a slyppe/ wh*i*ch he tyed his cloke w*i*th for carynge beinge demanded what was the cause of his com*m*ing to this cytye/ saythe to seke a kynsman of his on Iohan yerton a husbandman/ being a sodier/ butt co*u*ld

---

9/ bothe places: *Chester Castle and Northgate*

28–9/ wensdaye last: *4 May 1597*

not here of him & saythe when he co*u*ld not here of him/ he bought the bott*es* spurres & sadles to take into his countrey to sell for agayne & so dep*ar*ted toward*es* his contrey/ & saythe about*es* a myle of he was apprehended/ in a fyld/ & then by the co*n*stable brought to this cytye to maio*r*/ being demanded whatt acquaintance he had w*i*th Ienions wyff at Lyttelton sayth non nor never saw her before/ that tyme he passed ou*er* the fyld*es* being demanded what horses he brought fro*m* home w*i*th him saythe non/ being demanded/ whether he was eu*er* hertofore a prison*er*/ in any Iayle/ saythe no/ being demanded whether he dothe know any horse stelers that travell abrode. saythe he dothe not/ being demanded/ what Iustyses of peace he dothe know in derbyshire/ saythe/ S*i*r humfrey ferres/ Mr kingston of merkeston Mr franc*es* of fermarke/ & noe more/ all w*i*thin fyve myles of this examynatt*es* dwelling or ther about*es*

Thom*as* Lynyall

1597–8

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 27
f 41 *(28 August) (Portmote court)*

...

proxime

M*anucaptio* Thome Houghe de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* Music*i*on de pace ferend*a* Georgio Cally de ead*em* Music*i*on hic vsq*ue* p*roximam* Curi*am* Portmoti Ciui*ta*tis p*re*dict*e* i*bide*m p*roxime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad comp*ar*endu*m* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine Licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*eric*ullum will*el*m*i* Adamz Georgii Iesell Hugonis Harvy & will*el*m*i* madok

proxime

M*anucaptio* Georgij Cally de Ci*uita*te Cest*rie* Musicion de pace fer*enda* p*re*fat*o* Thome Hough hic vsque p*roximam* Curi*am* portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* p*re*dict*e* ib*ide*m prox*ime* tenend*am* et tunc et i*bide*m ad comp*ar*andu*m* et abinde no*n* reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*eric*ullum will*el*m*i* Maninge generos*i* Will*el*m*i* modesley Henrici Turn*er* & will*el*mi Bennet.

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [33v] *(13 January 1597/8–13 January 1598/9) (Payments)*

...

Item spende and Lede oute on medsseumeer Eyne for house and shause and oudor charges	xiij s. x d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/2
f 113v* *(11 November 1596–11 November 1597)*

...

It*em* giuen to Henrye Shurlocke	iiij d.

13m/ Thom*as* Lynyall: *written sideways in the left margin with a mark*

It*em* giuen to the Musition*ers*	ij. s.

…

f 115v* *(11 November 1597–11 November 1598)*

…

It*em* payed to the Musition*ers*	xviij d.

…

f 116

…

payed for ye Glaves	v s.
It*em* for the barage of ye same	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to ye Musition*ers* at shroftide	ij s.

…

Expence*s* vpon midsom*er* even

It*em* halfe a barell of beare	viij s.
It*em* for bread	v s. iiij d.
It*em* for Chise	vj s. x d.
It*em* payed for ye horse	xij d.
It*em* for the footemen	xij d.
It*em* for the shoos	xij d.
It*em* for the hoses	xx d.
It*em* for the gloves	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to ye Musition*ers*	ij s. vj d.

…

f 118 *(Receipts)*

…

Rec*eive*d of the bretheren for expence*s* vpon Midsom*er* even	xvj s. vj d.

…

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 44 *(1 August–1 August)* *(Payments)*

…

It*em* paide to Iohn owen ffor taffyta one yearde	xij s. vj d.
It*em* pade for silke ij ownsses for our frynge and sylke to sett it one wi*th* all	iij s. [vij d.]
It*em* payde for takeinge downe of our staffe	iij d.
It*em* payde for makinge of our frynge	iiij d.
It*em* payde ffor hosse and shooes for the chylde	iij s.

13/ shroftide: *26–8 February 1597/8*

It*em* paide ffor apayre of gloues ffor the chylde	iiij d.
It*em* ffor ‸⌈them at⌉ [the] castle ‸⌈to⌉ the cryer and the north gate	xij d.
It*em* spente at the Lossinge of our wach vpon them that weatede vpon the chylde and gevn the mvsykke	xx d.
payde to the [vusicke] musycke	v s.
ffor makinge of our banner	
It*em* to paye vnto the Smyth for makinge Iron Rodds	xxvj s. viij d.

…

f 47v *(1 August 1598–1 August 1599) (Disbursements)*

…

It*em* payde the firste daye of Auguste being the elecyon daye for a breckfaste at our aldermanes	xvj s.
It*em* geven vnto the mvsyssyons the same daye	iiij s.
It*em* paide vnto the smyth for makinge of an Iron Rode for our Banner	xij d.
It*em* paide for a staffe to Rowle our Banners vpon	iiij d.
It*em* payde to symon Smyth for a staffe	x d.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 55 *(25 March 1598–25 March 1599) (Charges)*

…

Imprimus payd . ffor a payre off stockings for the childe w*hi*ch Roade ffor the company	ij s. viij d.
Item payd for apayre of shooes	xij d.
Item payed for apayre off gloves	iiij d.
Item for ij men for holdinge the child & leadinge the horse	viij d.
Item spent in dressinge of the childe in wine & sugar	x d.
Item payed to the cryer att the barrs	ij d.
Item given to the prysoners of the castle & northegate	vij d.
Item payd to the minstrells on midsom*m*er eve	ij s. vj d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [111] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

…

Item for hose shooes and gloues to the childe	iiij s.

It*em* spent at the dressinge of the childe	iiij d.
It*em* to two men to guyde the horse	x d.
It*em* to the prisoners and Crier	x d.
It*em* spent in ale one midsomer Eue at mr Williams	iij d.
It*em* to the minstrells one midesomer eve	ij s.
It*em* for ‸⌜our⌝ bankett one midsomer eve at our Alderman leeches	v s.
It*em* for mendeinge the banner	xij d.

...

1598–9

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

f 253 *(1 March)*

...

At w*hi*ch assembly m*aste*r Maior Declareth that he is credible enformed that the Right Ho*norable* the Erle Marshall of England will speedely repaire to this citie to take shippinge for Ireland And moueth that some such order may be taken for the receipt and entertayneme*n*t of the saied Erle as may be both befittinge soe honorable a personage and tend to the credite of the citie vppon whose motion it is by the same Assembly agreed and ordered that there shallbe prepared at the ou*er* sight and appointm*en*t of Mr Dauid lloyd and Mr William Aldersay Ald*ermen* for the said Erle a good banquett vppon the cities Chardges and that a siluer cupp of x li. or xx ty marks price shalbe bought and fortie Angells of gould alsoe prouided vppon the cities chardges and putt into the saied cupp and soe be p*re*sented vnto his Ho*nor*

Order taken towchinge the intertaynment of the earle of Essex earle marshall of England

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 27

f 21v *(14 January) (Portmote court)*

...

M*anucaptio* Roberti Cally de Ciui*ta*te Cest*rie* musitian de pace ferend*a* chr*isto*fero Burton de ead*em* Ciui*ta*te musitian hic vsq*ue* prox*imam* Cur*iam* Portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* pred*icte* ib*id*em prox*ime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*id*em ad Comp*a*rend*um* et abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. *per* *pericu*llum Thome Carter et Ioh*anni*s Asbrooke

prox*ime*

...

f 23v *(22 January)*

...

M*anucaptio* Roberti Cally de Ciui*ta*te Cest*rie* musician de pace ferend*a* chr*isto*fero Burton de ead*e*m Ciui*ta*te music*ia*n hic vsq*ue* prox*imam* Cur*iam* Portmoti Ciui*tatis* predict*e* *i*b*id*em p*roxime* tenend*am* post festum *sanct*i

mich*aelis*

Mich*ael*is Arch*angel*i proxi*mum* futur*um* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad Comparend*um* et abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*llum Thome Carter et Ioh*ann*is Asbrooke taylers

…

f 47 *(6 October)*

…

M*anucaptio* Roberti Cally de Ciui*ta*te Cest*rie* musitian de pace ferend*a* Georgio Cally de eadem Ciui*ta*te musitian et Iane vxori eius hic vsq*ue* proxi*mam* Cur*iam* Portmoti Ciui*tat*is predi*cte* ib*ide*m ^⌈proxi*me* tenend*am*⌉ et tunc et ib*ide*m ad Comp*arendum* et abinde non reced*endum* sine licenc*ia* sub pena xl li. p*er* p*ericu*llum will*el*m*i* Humfrey

proxime

…

Deed of Accord between George and Robert Cally, Waits

BL: Harley MS 2054
single sheet *(25 July)*

…

Whereas Variance and Controu*er*sie heretofore hath growen and bene dependinge betwene George Cally of the said Citie musitian vpon thone p*ar*tie and Robert Cally of the same Citie Musitian brother of the said [Rob] George vpon thother p*ar*tie The said parties doe agree and doe promyse either to other. to Contynue be and remayne of one Consorte. and to play vpon their instrum*entes* together still in one Company and be lovinge and frendlie thone to thother during ^⌈& to⌉ thend of their naturall lyves w*i*thout sep*ar*ation or dep*ar*ture one from another/ And where the said Georg hath two boyes and the said Robert but one boy they haue Concluded and Agreed to devyde their gaynes arrising by their play in force folowing That is to say that the said Georg shall haue three p*ar*tes of the gaine and the said Robert two And that whensoeu*er* the said Robert shall haue an other boy or that the said Georg shall dep*ar*te w*i*th thone of his boyes soe as they shall either of them ^⌈haue⌉ a lyke number of boyes that then the gaynes shall equally be devyded amongest them w*i*thout fraud or deceipt Dated at the day and yeare aforesaid

°Witness*es* of this agreement°
(signed) Thomas Drewe
(signed) Will*iam* Bird
(signed) Richard Bavand
(signed) William Walt*er*
(signed) Davye Lloyd
(signed) Thom*as* Fletcher

(signed) George calley
(signed) Robert Callye

AC *Audited City Treasurers' Accounts* BL: Harley MS 2173

f 92v *(13 October–12 October)*

...

for the wetemens gownes	v li. xix s.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [34] *(13 January 1598/9–13 January 1599/1600) (Disbursements)*

...

Item fore [a] halfe a barrell of beare	iiij s.
Item for brede	ij s.
Item for chese	xxj d.
Item for a peare of hose and a peare suse and a peare of gloues	ij s. vj d.
Item at barese and the Caltele and the norgate	xvj d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 3* *(11 November–11 November) (Disbursements)*

...

Inprimis payed for wine at Mr Williams	v s. viij d.
It*e*m payed for ffranc*es* and his ffellowe and our clarcke his din*er*	iij s.
It*e*m giuen to ye Musition*er*s ye same day	ij s.
It*e*m giuen to Henry Shurlocke	iiij d.

...

f 3v*

It*e*m giue for wine at Rauffe Tonges drinkinge	ij s.
It*e*m giuen to the musitions ye same daye	ij s.

...

f 4

...

It*e*m payed for glaves	v s.
It*e*m giuen for barage of the glaves	iiij d.
It*e*m giuen to the musitions at shroftide	ij s. vj d.
It*e*m giuen to Henry Shurlocke	vj d.

15/ Caltele: *for* Castele

21/ v: *altered from* iiij

24/ ye same day: *ie, election day, 11 November 1598*

38/ shroftide: *18–20 February 1598/9*

It*em* giuen to the stewardes of ye Iovrnemen of ye shomakers for servinge at shroftide in the gate	xij d.

...

f 4v

...

It*em* for a payre of breeches for the boye at midsom*er*	viij s. vj d.
It*em* for Cuttinge makinge & lacinge the briches	[xvj d.] ij s.
It*em* for Cop*er* lace for Ierkinge & breeches	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* for a Ierkine & a payre of shoes to mr Allen	vj s.
It*em* for a payre of hoses	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* for a payre of gloves	x d.
It*em* payed for a boord to ye Curier	v s. viij d.
It*em* payed to mr Benet for a Cloke to the Curier	viij s.
It*em* lent to the Curier	vj s.
It*em* payed to the Carpender	ij s. ij d.
It*em* spent at mr Winnes vpon the Curier	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the Crier	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the p*r*ison*ers* of the Castell & northgate	ij s.
It*em* giuen to the musitions	iiij s.
It*em* giuen for wine at midsom*er* Even	iiij s.
It*em* for dressinge the staffe	viij d.
It*em* for tinsill for the staffe	ij d.

...

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

ff 47v–8 *(1 August–1 August) (Disbursements)*

...

Ite*m* payd for staffe for our banner	x d.
Ite*m* Cloth to make our typpetes	xv s.
Ite*m* ffor makinge, silke and Lasse	iij s. viij d.
Ite*m* ffor apayer of gloves	vj d.
Ite*m* ffor Lone of a cape to the boye	xij d.
Ite*m* Leade out for ale w*ith*out the barres bestowed vpon the compaynye	xx d.
Ite*m* geven to wodcocke and the prison*ers*	xvj d.
Ite*m* ffor Lone of a feather	vj d.
Ite*m* payde to the mvsicke	v s.
Ite*m* payd for apayer of spures	vj d.
Ite*m* bestowed vpon the companye and them that weated vpon the chyld after our wach in beere	x d.

2/ shroftide: *18–20 February 1598/9*

It*em* ffor ij that weated vpon the Chyld	〈...〉
[It*em* payde for anewe staffe for our banner] |	
It*em* ffor a payer of Buskines for the boye that ryde at mydsom*er*	[iiij s.] iij s. [vj d.] viij d.
It*em* ffor keepinge of our Banner	xij d.

...

f 50 *(1 August 1599–1 August 1600)*

...

p*ai*d by the aldermens appointm*ent* for dyvers gent*lemen* that weare eatinge the venyson mr ffrancis bestoed on the Company at Steward Alcock*es* ·	xx s.
p*ai*d for wyne the same dynner	ix s. iiij d.
p*ai*d to the musicke the same tyme	iij s. iiij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 58 *(25 March 1599–25 March 1600) (Charges)*

...

Item payd for the boy to ryde att midsomer for hose & shues & gloves	ij s. ix d.
Item payd att the barrs, & the prisoners of the Castle & northgate	ix d.
Item payd to the minstrells vpon midsomer eve	ij s. vj d.
Item payd for grasse & bread & for on to lead the horse	vij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [113] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

Item for the Childes apparll the oute sydes lyneinges bumbast lase buttons and for the makeinge	xxiiij s.
Item for the hose shues and gloues to the Childe	ij s. x d.
Item to a man to guide the horse	iij d.
Item for horse bread to the horse	ij d.
Item to ‸⸢the⸣ prisoners of the northgate and Castell and to the Crier	x d.
Item to the musisions on midsomer Eve	ij s.
Item our Banquett on midsomer Eve at our alderman ⸢da*n*bye⸣	iiij s.

...

1599–1600

A ***Mayors List 2*** BL: Harley MS 1944
ff 90–90v* *(12 October–10 October)*

...

This mayor was a godly zealous man, yet he gott ill will amonge the Com*m*ons, for puttinge downe some anchant orders, in the Cittie and amonge some Companyes, especially the shooemakers, whoe he much opposed, he caused the giantes w*hi*ch vse to goe at midsomer to be broken, The bull ringe at the high crosse to be taken vp, The dragon and naked | boyes he suffered not to goe in midsomer showe nor the diuell for the Butchers, but aboye to ride as other Companyes, he restrayned their leauelookers, for sendinge wine, on the [eu] feastifull dayes, accordinge to theire anchant vse and Custome.

...

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 45v* *(12 October–10 October)*

The Mayor was a godlye ‸⌈°ouer°⌉ zealous man, and kepte a verye worshippfull and A plentefull howse, he ruled well, yeat he gate greate yll will Amonge the co*m*mons. for Appooseinge hym selfe Againste some companyes ‸⌈°espetialy the Showmakers°⌉ orders and agaynste oulde customes of this cittye.

he caused the Gyauntes, in the Mydsomer show to be put downe ‸⌈°& broken°⌉ and not to goe, The devill in his fethers ‸⌈°to ride for the buchers but a boy as ‸⌈others had⌉°⌉ he put Awaye. and the Cuppes and Cannes. And dragon and Naked boyes. ⌈°but caused a man in complet Armor to goe before the show in their steed°⌉ he caused the bull Ringe to be taken vpp And the Leave Lookers were restrayned, for sendinge wine Accordinge to the Aunciente vse and Custome of this Cittye

...

AC ***Mayors List 7*** BL: Harley MS 2133
f 46 *(12 October–10 October)*

...

This Maior for his tyme Altered many ancient Customs as ye shootinge for the sherifs Breakefast the goinge of the gyants at Midsomer etc. and would not suffer any playes beare Baits or Bullbaites...

7/ Companyes: *1 minim for* n *in* MS
18/ ouer: *in* RH II*'s hand*
20–1/ espetialy the Showmakers: *in* RH II*'s hand*
23/ & broken: *in* RH II*'s hand*
24–5/ to ride ... had: *in* RH II*'s hand*
26–7/ but ... steed: *in* RH II*'s hand*

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 17v *(12 October–10 October)*
...
m*aste*r mayor woulde not suffer the Gyaunt*es* to be sett forth at the watch. at midsom*er* as they had bene before tymes Accustomed/ He kepte A worshippfull howse. gyvinge enterteynem*ent*. vnto knight*es* and gent*lemen* of good fashions, and kynd*e* vnto his frends & neighbours./

A ***Mayors List 16*** CCALS: DLT/B 37 (Tabley Liber N)
f 67 *(12 October–10 October)*
...
Also the saide Mayor caused the giantes not to goe at midsomer watche, but in stede a man in armore on horse backe, in white armor. Also in the same showe he put downe the diuill ridinge for ye butchers and caused a boy, to ride for them as the reste of the companyes. he also put downe the cuppes and cannes, w*i*th diuills in the same showe, Also the dragon w*i*th naked boyes, he put downe alsoe in y*a*t showe, he also tooke vp the bullringe at the highe crosse & he also opposed ye shoemakers, and woulde haue them to receaue britheren y*a*t serued theire times to come in amonge them for iij s. iiij d, he also restrayned the leauelookers from sendinge wine accordinge to theire anchante custome, he firste tooke ye toole from the sergents

AC ***Mayors List 19*** Bodl.: MS. Top Cheshire c. 9
f 235v *(12 October–10 October)*
...
1599 Hen Hardware Major old Customs alterd ye Giants ‸⌜in midsomer shew⌝ Cups & Cans, naked Boys &c to be disusd...
...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [35] *(13 January 1599/1600–13 January 1600/1)* *(Disbursements)*
...

Item for halfe a barril of beare	iiij s.
Item for brede	ij s.
Item for Chese	ij s.
Item for a peare of hose	xvj d.
Item for a peare of shvse	xij d.
Item for a peare of glovse	iij d.
Item gave to ovr fote mane	iiij d.
Item for dresing of the syne agenste medsore	v s.
Item for papre to lape the syne in	j d.

...

It*em* for Charges on medsem*er* eyn at the bare*s* and the norgate and the Castele	xi d.
the pyperse and the horse	ij s. viij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 6v *(11 November–11 November)*

…

It*em* payed to the musition*ers* vpon St Martins daye	ij s.
It*em* giuen to Henry Shurlocke	iiij d.

…

f 7

…

It*em* giuen for o*ur* glaves	v s.
It*em* in barage	viij d.
It*em* giuen to the Musition*ers* at shroftide	ij s. vj d.
It*em* to Henry Shoorlocke	iiij d.

…

f 8

…

It*em* payed for a payre of hoses for the child at Midsom*er* and gloves	ij s.
It*em* for a payre shoes	xvj d.
It*em* giuen to the Crier	iiij d.
It*em* giuen At the Castell & Northgate	ij s.
It*em* giuen for a gallen of Sacke	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* giuen for a pottell of Sacke	xx d.
It*em* in bread	v s. iiij d.
It*em* In Chise	v s. viij d.
In prunes	xviij d.
It*em* halfe a barell of beare	iiij s.
It*em* for suger	xvj d.
It*em* for bringinge the childes apparell to Iohn grines houses	ij d.
It*em* gildinge the staffe	iiij d.
It*em* spent at Mr Williams house	ij d.
It*em* spent at Iohn grynes house	ij d.
It*em* at bownynge the childe	xv d.
It*em* giuen to the Musition*ers*	iiij s.

17/ shroftide: *3–5 February 1599/1600*

It*e*m giuen for leadinge the horse	xij d.
It*e*m giuen in horse bread	vj d.
It*e*m for dressinge the childe	ij d.
It*e*m for a quarte of sacke	x d.
…	

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 49 *(1 August–1 August)* *(Receipts)*

…	
R*eceaved* of Certain alehowses at midsomer	xvij s. vj d.
…	
R*eceaved* of of those w*hi*ch weare absent at midsomer	xiiij s. iiij d. °15.4.°
…	

ff 50–50v *(Disbursements)*

…	
p*ai*d to mr Cise vpon thelexc*io*n daie for settinge out the woman at midsomer vj s. vj d. and for Chardges against the bakers by order from the Company iiij s. vj d.	xj s.
…	
p*ai*d the same tyme by order of the Company to Rob*er*t Innce in almes	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for a paire of Buskins for the Boye	iij s. iiij d.
p*ai*d for a paire of Spurrs and gloves for the boye	xij d. |
p*ai*d for ale for the Company at humphry Ellis	[xviij d.]
p*ai*d to woodkocke and at the gates	xvj d.
p*ai*d to the leader of the house	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d to ffloode for Carryinge the banner	x d.
p*ai*d to Randle holmes for keapinge the banner and for newe payntinge the staffe	ij s.
Spent in gatheringe the alehowse money	xvij d.
p*ai*d to the musicke	v s.
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 60 *(25 March 1600–25 March 1601)* *(Charges)*

…	
It*e*m payd for apayre off stockings for the boy w*hi*ch did ryde for the companye	iij s. vj d.

12/ of of: *dittography*

22/ the same tyme: *ie, Midsummer*

It*em* payd for apayre off . shues for him	xviij d.
It*em* payd for apayre off gloves for him	v d.
It*em* payd for a quart of wine & sugar att his dressing	viij d.
It*em* given to the tuo footmen, w*hi*ch led the horse	viij d.
It*em* given to the Cryer att the barrs	ij d.
It*em* given to the prysoners of the Castle	iiij d.
It*em* given to the prysoners of the northegate	iij d.
It*em* payd to the minstrells for our*e* musick	iij s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [114] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*em* for hose shooes gloues and spent athe dressing of the Childe and for Ribens to the shooes	iij s. iij d.
It*em* spent at our Alderman Leeches at our goeinge vp vppon midsomer eve	iij d.
It*em* to the Crier and to the prisoners of the Castle and northgate	x d.
It*em* payd for the Caryinge of the banner	iiij d.
It*em* to the musysions vpon mydsomer Eve	iij s.
It*em* layd out for wyne at our Supper vpon mydsomer Eue	iij d.
It*em* for our supper vpon myddsomer Evee	vj s. viij d.
It*em* for the amendyinge and Repayreinge of our banner and layeinge of the staff in oyle Cullers	ij s.

...

c 1600

AC ***Daniel King, The Vale-Royall of England*** Wing: K488

Part 2, pp 15–16

...

And the Bridge-gate opening into an antient part of the City, beyond the water, over the Bridge; or rather that part which some suppose was once the City it self. now called Iland-bridge; and the Water-gate onely leading forth to the side of the River Dee : Which River, even there, falls into the mouth of the Sea, having first as it were purposely turn'd it self a side, to leave a fine spacious piece of ground of great pleasure and delight, called The Roode | Eye; for the Citizens both profit and re-past a very delightfull Meadow place, used for a Cow-pasture in the Summer-time; and all the year for a wholesome and pleasant Walk by the side of Dee; and for Recreations of Shooting, Bowling, and such other Exercises, as are performed at certain times by men; and by running Horses, in presence and view of the Major of the City, and his Brethren; with such other Lords, Ladies, Gentlemen, as please at those times, to accompany them for that view.

...

1600–1

AC *Mayors List 5* BL: Harley MS 2125
f 45v *(10 October 1600–16 October 1601)*

...

m*aste*r mayor Restored agayne al the Anciente Customes he founde the fyrst time he was mayor 1584 ⌈°& put downe by Mr Hardware°⌉ except the tole of the Corne market, w*hi*ch was taken awaye from the 4 Sergeantes ‸⌈°by mr Hardware°⌉ by a generall An Assemblye °confirmed°

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
ff [37–7v] *(13 January 1600/1–13 January 1601/2) (Payments)*

...

Imprimis paide for owr dinner at widdow Cowpers oon the twenthe daye laste	ix s. viij d.
It*em* paide for wyne the same tyme	ij s.
It*em* paide to the musisiners	xij d.
...	
It*em* paide to the musisuners at Robert markes dinner	ij s. vj d.
It*em* payd to the waitemen	vj d.
...	
It*em* payd at Ric*hard* bennets dinner for wyne and to the musisiners	iiij s. vj d.
...	
It*em* payde for our Charges on midsomer even	viij s. |
It*em* payde for the Chyldes [gloves] hose	xv d.
It*em* payde for the Chyldes shous	xij d.
It*em* payd for on payre gloves	iij d.
It*em* payd for gloves for the foote men	viij d.
It*em* spent at barsse on our Company	viij d.
It*em* to the Cryer	j d.
It*em* to the priseners at the Castel and norgate	x d.
It*em* for horse bred	iiij d.
It*em* to the pyper	vj d.

...

11/ & ... Mr Hardware: *in RH II's hand*
12–13/ by mr Hardware: *in RH II's hand*
13/ confirmed: *in RH II's hand*
19/ Imprimis: *4 minims for* imi *in MS*
20/ twenthe: *for* twelthe *(?)*

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 9 *(11 November–11 November)*

…	
It*em* to the wetemen	ij s.
…	

f 9v

…	
It*em* payd for the gleues	v s.
It*em* spent vpon the barrich	ij s.
…	
It*em* geuen to the weat men at shroftide	ij s. vj d.
…	
Item geuen to Henry Shorlocke	iiij d.
Item geuen to the saruiters at shroftide	xij d.
…	

f 10

…	
It*em* for gildinge the stafe	iiij d.
It*em* for triminge the childe	ij d.
It*em* spent in bouninge the childe	xij d.
It*em* for hose and gloues for the child	ij s. ij d.
It*em* for the childes shoues	xvj d.
It*em* for chise for our cumpaney	v s.
It*em* for brede for our cumpaney	v s.
It*em* for prunes	ij s.
It*em* for sugere	xx d.
It*em* for beare	v s.
It*em* spent vpon Iohn Grine	xiiij d.
It*em* giuen to the crier at the barse	iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the prisoners of the castill	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the prisoners of the norgate	xij d.
It*em* giuen to the fotemen	xij d.
It*em* giuen for horsebrede	vj d.
It*em* giuen for wine for our cumpaney	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* giuen to the musiners	iiij s.
…	

12, 15/ shroftide: *22–4 February 1600/1*

27/ prunes: *6 minims in* MS

37/ musiners: *for* musisiners

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 52 *(1 August–1 August) (Disbursements)*

...

payd to wodcocke and the gattes	xvj d.
payd for a paier of buskines for the boye	iij s. iiij d.
payd for a paier of glowes	iiij d.
payd to the leder of the horsse	ij s. vj d.
payd to randell holmes for kepinge the baner	xij d.
payd to the musicke	v s.
spent in gatheringe the allemonye	xvj d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 63 *(25 March 1601–25 March 1602) (Charges)*

...

Imprimis laide out for three quarters of Clothe to make our tippit*es* to mr Littler	xij s.
Item to Bedle for a newe staffe	vj d.
Item for the makinge of ye tippit*es* & lace to them	iij s. vj d.
Item for a paire of stockens for ye childe w*hi*ch did ride	iij s. iiij d.
Item for a paire of Spanishe leather shoes	ij s.
Item for colouringe & silueringe ye staffe & mendinge the banner	xiiij d.
Item for gloues for the boie	vj d.
Item to the prisoners of the Castle & Northgate	vij d.
Item to the Crier at the Barres	ij d.
Item giuen to the minstrels	iij s.
Item for Wine and sugar at the dressinge of ye Childe	viij d.
Item to two me*n* to laide the horse	x d.

...

Item paide to three sort*es* of Mynstrels at our dynner at Alderma*n* Kendericks house	iij s. vj d.

...

f 63v

...

Item paide for Edward Iones vppo*n* midsomer Eve	iiij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [117] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*em* for Sacke and Clarrett wyne at will*ia*m pooles dynner	xvj d.
It*em* for the musysions at that tyme	ij s.

...

It*em* for hose shooes and gloues to the Child	ij s. viij d.
It*em* spent at the dressing of the Child	ij d.
It*em* geven to a man for leadyng the horse	iiij d.
It*em* spent at our alderman holmes the same tyme	ij d.
It*em* geven to the Cryer at the bares	ij d.
It*em* to the prisoners of Castell and northgate	viij d.
It*em* vpon mydsomer eve for musicke	xviij d.
It*em* that nyght for our drinkinge	vj s.

...

1601–2

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 46* *(16 October–15 October)*

...

he sett out the Giants & midsomer show as of ould it was wont to be kept

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 233 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Inp*r*imis payd ye 29th of Dece*mber* vnto the watchma*n* attending iij nightes vpon ye maior & Sheriffes in Christmas	xij d.
It*em* for Armor hyred for ye watchman	xiiij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [40]* *(13 January 1601/2–13 January 1602/3) (Payments)*

...

Imprimis payde for wyne at Thomas harrison his dinner	iij s.
more to the minstrells the same tyme	ij s. vj d.

...

more spende on oure Company in Widdow Cowpers	ij s.
more geven to the minstrells the same tyme	vj d.

...

22/ he: *John Ratcliffe, mayor*

f [40v]

...

more payde for oure Charges on midsomer even	viij s.
more payde for on payre hose for the Chylde	xiiij d.
more payde for on payre shouse	xiiij d.
more payde for on payre gloves	iij d.
more payde to ij footeme	x d.
more payde for horsbredd	iiij d.
more payde to the pyper	vj d.
more payde to the Cryer	j d.
more geven to the norgate and the Castle	xiiij d.
more for gildinge oure staffe and an Iron pin	vij d.

...

Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Orders

CCALS: ZG 6/1

f [16v]* *(21 May)*

Ciuitas Cestr*ie* An order from the right wor*shipful* Iohn Ratclyffe maior for the yearely collection for the settinge out of Balaam and balaams Asse at mydsom*er* watch

Whereas the Companye of Bricklayers within this citty are to be at charges in settinge forth of the showe or watch, at mydsommer of Balaam and Balaams asse, wherevnto aswell the freemen of the lynnen drapers, brickemakers, and brickelaiers of this Cittye, as also the forrenners inhabitinge w*i*thin this Cittye, and vseinge the trades aforesaide haue bene accustomed. to bee contributarye, These are theirefore to aucthorise Roberte Ridley and george Antrobus Aldermen of the companye of bricklayers. and Roberte Goodaker and Thomas markes stewardes of the same companye, to collecte of everye of the saide p*er*sons, aforesaide all such somes of money as they haue bene heretofore accustomed to paye, and as hath bene accustomed to be collected. towardes the Charge aforesaide dated the xxj^th^ of Maie. 1602.

Iohn Ratclyffe maior

f [2v]*

...

1602

Item wee the foresaide stewardes, Thomas markes and Roberte Goodiker hath layde out for the company for mydsomer watch in settinge out our show and other charges the some of	xij s. vj d.

...

7/ footme: *for* footmen*; abbreviation mark omitted* f [3]

1602

An order for A drinking

M*emorandum* That vpon the xvth day of August 1602 by the consente of the Aldermen and stewardes withe Rest of the said company, That here after the said company doth alow vpon mydsomer even after the watch for theire drinkeinge vnto the stewardes of the sayd company the some of vj s. viij d. and yf the said stewardes for the tyme doe make any more charge or exceed aboue the said some of vj s. viij d. the said stewardes to paye the overplushe them selves

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 11* *(11 November 1600–11 November 1601)*

…

It*em* spent in mr williamses for wine at our diner	iij s. viij d.
It*em* for musicke	iij s.

…

f 11v *(11 November 1601–11 November 1602)*

…

Impr*imis* paid for a pottle of secke on St Martines daie	xx d.
It*em* given to the waitemen	ij s.
It*em* given to the skinners	ij s.
It*em* given to Harrie Shorlocke	iiij d.

…

It*em* paid for the thre paravant men and the six younger bretheren for their dinner	vj s. viij d.
It*em* given to the Callis	ij s. vj d.
It*em* given to harry Shorlocke	iiij d.
It*em* paid for wine	ij s.
It*em* paid for gleaves	v s. iiij d.
It*em* given to the waitemen	ij s. vj d.
It*em* paid to harry Shorlocke	iiij d.
It*em* paid for the two servitor*es*	xij d.

…

f 12

…

It*em* for cheese	v s.
It*em* for prunes	xviij d.

It*em* for bread	iiij s.
It*em* for Sugar	vj d.
It*em* given at the Castle	xij d.
It*em* given at the Northgate	xij d.
It*em* for secke	ij s. vj d.
It*em* given to the Musitions	iiij s.
It*em* to mr Glasiers man	xij d.
It*em* to Richard Halliwell	vj d.
It*em* for shoes	xiiij d.
It*em* for Riban	ij d.
It*em* paid for Ale at mr di*m*mockes	iij d.
It*em* for gloves	iij d.
It*em* for hose	xvj d.
It*em* given to Richard Woodcocke	iiij d.
It*em* for beere	v s.
It*em* given to m*aste*r maior for peter Burkesey his children	x s.
It*em* given to m*aste*r Iustice a pottle of secke and a quarter of sugar and a pottle of wite wine	iij s. ij d.
…	
It*em* given to the Callis	ij s.
…	

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 52v *(1 August–1 August)* *(Receipts)*

…	
Res*eived* of the ale house money against midsomm*er*	xviij s. ij d.
…	

ff 54–4v *(Disbursements)*

	…	
	paid for musicke the same daye to geo*rge* Cally	ij s. vj d.
	…	
	paid for apayre spurres for o*ur* boy	vij d.
	…	
	spent at Iames Brvsters in beare and ale vpon o*ur* company and watchmen	iij s.
midsom*er* even	[pai] given to Iohn deane in wyne ⌈for hemself⌉ and oates for his horse . that the boy ryd vpon at the watche	xiij d.

32/ the same daye: *14 June 1602*

paid to davy Allen for apayre of buskyns for the boy to ryde w*i*th	iij s. iiij d.
for laces for the same	ij d.
[for four payre of spurres	vij d.]
for half ayard riben to fasten the chaynes	j d.
paid to o*u*r musicke at the watche	vj s.
paid for a drinkinge at o*u*r comyng home from the Watche vpon part of the compay	iij s. iiij d.
given to Richard Woodcock at the northgat and Castell	xvj d.
to Randle holmes for dressing o*u*r bann*er*	xij d.
[⟨...⟩]	
spent in gathering the ale house money	ij s. ij d.
to aman that led o*u*r horse that o*u*r boy rid on and to Cary the banner	ij s.
[for riben for the ⟨...⟩	⟨...⟩ d.] |
paid for Ryben for to Dresse the horse mane	vj d.
paid for apayre of gloues for the boy	vj d.

...

paid to holmes for a new Iron rodde for o*u*r banner	xij d.

...

f 55v *(1 August 1602–1 August 1603) (Disbursements)*

Imprimis paid for wyne vpon our election daye and at ⌜o*u*r⌝ dynn*er* at mr whitbyes w*i*th our company	xj s. ij d.
paide to the waytes there at our dynn*er*	ij s.
paid to the Kellyes for musick the same tyme	v s.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 66 *(25 March 1602–25 March 1603) (Charges)*

...

It*em* for a peare of hoose for the childe that did Ride at midsomer	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* for a peare of shoes & Ribbins to them	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for a peare of gloues	vj d.
It*em* for wine and sugar at the dressinge of the boie	viij d.
It*em* to the Cryar at the barres	ij d.
It*em* to the prisoners of the Castle and Northgate	vij d.
It*em* for siiueringe of the stafe	xij d.
It*em* gaue to the minstrels	iij s.

8/ compay: *for* company

Item to the fotem*e*n *ya*t lade the horse	xij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [117v] *(18 October–18 October)* *(Charges)*

…

Item for hose shooes and gloues to the Childe that Rode	ij s. viij d.
Item for horse breade to the horse at Mydsomer	iiij d.
Item for one to guyde the horse	iiij d.
Item to the Cryer and to the prisoners of the northgate and Castell	x d.
Item to the musysyons	ij s. vj d.
Item to Aron dawbye for goeing vpon stiltes	xij d.
Item for our Banquett vpon mydsomer Eue	vij s.

…

1602–3

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [42] *(13 January 1602/3–13 January 1603/4)* *(Payments)*

…

It*em* Inprimes payd at mydsomer for the bankytt	viij s.
It*em* payd for a paire of hosse for the Child that dyd ryd	xvj d.
It*em* paid for a payre of shewes for the Chillde	xij d.
It*em* payd for a payre of glowes for hime	iij d.
It*em* payd to the fotte men	vj d.
It*em* paid to the boye that dyd lede the horse	iiij d.
It*em* paid for horsse breade to the horse	iiij d.
It*em* payd for good dalle at the bares	xij d.
It*em* payd to the mynstrell one mydsomer evine	vj d.
It*em* payd to the Cryer at the bares	ij d.
It*em* payd at the Castell and at the norgatte	xiiij d.
It*em* paid to the sheryffes	ix s.

…

It*em* payd for wine at Iohn anterbous his diner	ij s.
It*em* payd to the mynstrells the same tyme	xviij d.
It*em* payd at Kathren Cowp*ers* one the v of august for bread and drinke	v s.
It*em* payd to the mynstrell the same tyme	ij s.

…

Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Orders
CCALS: ZG 6/1
f [26] *(21 June)*

Taken at Chester before the mayor

...

fforasmuch as it appeareth that of aunciente tyme the Companye of Capp*ers* pynners and wyardrawers. within this Cittie. haue yearelye ioyned to geather in settinge foorth there pagines both at plaies at whitsontyde and at the watch a[.] Midsomer And that afterwardes vpon decaie of the pynners and wyardrawers, The companye of Lynnen Drapers within the said Cittye. have ioyned in all Contribution with the saide Capp*ers* w*hi*ch companye of Capp*ers* beinge lykewise decayed, the companye of brickelayers, haue borne the charge. with the saide lynnen drapers yearely in settinge forth the shew of mydsomer watch, Accordinge to aunciente Costome, which saide lynnen Drapers doe nowe refuse to ioyne or Contribute in the same/ It is theirefore ordered that the said Lynnen Drapers and brickelayers shall contynue the settinge foorth of the said shewe vpon midsomer Eve. and be Contributors one w*i*th the other for the doeinge theireof as they haue bene accustomed for the space of manye yeares./

Hugh Glaseour Maior
Will*ia*m Aldersaye
Iohn Radclyff
Edwarde Dutton
Thomas Gamnell
Richard Bavand
Edmund Gamnell
Thomas Lyniall
Iohn ffytton
ffoulke Aldersay

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3
f 12v *(11 November 1601–11 November 1602)*

It*em* given to the waitmen	xij d.
It*em* givento Harry Shorlocke	iiij d.

...

f 13 *(11 November 1602–11 November 1603)*

...

Inprimis payde vpon St Martins day for wynne at our dynner	iiij s. viij d.
Itt*em* payde to the musycenors the same day	ij s. vj d.
Itt*em* payde to Henry Shorlocke	iiij d.

...

Itt*em* payde for a gallon of Sacke at Thomas Whitles dynner	iiij s. iiij d.

Itt*em* given to the Cooke	ij s.
Itt*em* given for musicke	ij s.
...	
Itt*em* payde for wyne att Richard Ryders dynn*er*	iiij s. iiij d.
Itt*em* given to the Cooke	ij s.
Itt*em* given for musicke	ij s.
...	
Itt*em* payed for our gleaves	v s.
Itt*em* given to the Barrage	viij d.
...	
Itt*em* given for musicke at shroftyde	ij s. ij d.
...	

f 13v

...	
Itt*em* payde for our boyes shoes at midsom*er*	xij d.
Itt*em* payde for his hose	xx d.
Itt*em* for his gloves	vj d.
Itt*em* payd for dressinge of him	vj d.
Itt*em* spent at mr dymocke	iiij d.
Itt*em* given to the Cryer	iiij d.
Itt*em* given to the prysoners at Castle	xij d.
Itt*em* to the prisoners at the northgate	xij d.
Itt*em* payde for dressinge of the staffe	vj d.
Itt*em* payde for musicke at midsom*er*	iiij s.
given to the man that leid the horse	xij d.
...	

Innkeepers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 13/38

f 56* *(1 August–1 August) (Disbursements)*

...	
paid the xxiijth of Iune 1603 for apare of hose [the] for the boy that rid for our compay	xx d. hc
paid for a pare of spanish leth*er* shooes for h⟨.⟩	xv d. hc
paid for tyes for the same	vj d. hc
paid for ryben to dresse the horse	vj d. hc
paid for apint of wyne for use of the hat for the boye	iij d. hc
paid for apaire of gloues for the boy	vj d. hc
paid to Randle holmes for keping o*ur* banner	xij d. hc
[more he demandeth for paynting the staff]	
paid for beare at Iames Brosters ald*erman* wache	ij s. hc

11/ shroftyde: *14–16 February 1601/2*

33/ compay: *for* company

paid to the Lender of the horse & dressing him	xij d.	hc
paid to woodcock	iiij d.	hc
paid to the prison*er*s at the castle	vj d.	hc
paid to the prison*er*s at northgate	vj d.	hc
given to Bryan at the northgate	ij d.	hc
paid to Georg kally for o*ur* musicke	vj s.	hc
paid for a banquet to o*ur* compay aftr the wache	iij s.	hc

…

for loane of the saddle for the boy	j d.	hc
spent in travelling to p*ro*cure necessaries for the boy	iij d.	
spent in gathering the alehouse money	xiiij d.	

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 67v *(25 March 1603–25 March 1604) (Charges)*

…

Imp*ri*mis for a paire of hoose for the Childe *ya*t Ride at midsomer	iij s. ij d.
It*em* more for a paire of shoes	xvj d.
It*em* for a paire of gloues	xij d.
It*em* for Ribbins to tie the shoes	iij d.
It*em* to two men to laied the horse	viij d.
It*em* for wyne and sugar	viij d.
It*em* to the mynstrells	iij s.
It*em* to the Cryar at the Barres	ij d.
It*em* to the prisoners of the Castle & Northgate	vij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [121] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

…

It*em* for horsbread to the horse that Caryed the Childe vpon mydsomer Eve	iiij d.
It*em* for paynteing the banner staffe	vj d.
It*em* for salu*er*inge of the lase of the Childs apparrell	ij s.
It*em* for the musike vpon Mydsomer Eve	xxij d.
It*em* for stockings for the Childe	xviij d.
It*em* for the shooes	xij d.
It*em* to moyses dalby for goeinge vpon the stilts	xij d.
It*em* for a sokett to [y] Carry the howr glase	ij d.

7/ compay: *for* company

It*em* to the prisoners and to the Cryer	x d.
It*em* our supper vpon Mydsomer Eve	vij s.

…

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 51/63
single sheet *(11 October) (Examination of Ann Robinson)*

…

Ex*amined* where she had the white scarffe, sayeth she found the same w*i*th [a] the bracelett of Redd corrall folden in the same this daye at the bulle beatinge in the newe rowe over the buchers, ex*amined* where she had the money ^⌜being iij s. j d.⌝ shewed vnto hir ^⌜and found vpon hir⌝ saythe hir father gave hir iij s. & odde money what she cannot tell, but bade hir gyve hir mother the three shilling*es* & keape the reste to hir selffe, exa*mined* when he gave it vnto hir saythe this p*re*sent daye sythens the bulbeatinge, & Sayth she was borne at blackeborne in lanckeshire, but hir fathers dwellinge is nowe in heigher Whitley in budworth p*ar*ishe and so hathe donne for these three yeares/ And saythe she hathe a brother dwellinge in mancester called nicolas mallam a pedler who selleth lawne & cambricke & other wares and was heare at this laste fayre

…

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 51/55
single sheet–single sheet verso*

…

Ihon Drinkewat*er*

Thom*as* Lynyall

[⟨…⟩]

Iohn Greene being examyned whether Iohn Drinkewater ^⌜logethe att his howse⌝ sayth he doth not nether hath he lodged ther/ any tyme this monthe/ butt sayth some tymes he spendythe his money in his howse butt for drinke com*m*only being examyned wheyther he this examynat dothe know where the sayd Iohn Drinkewater dothe lodg saythe he know*eth* not/ for at this examynatt his howse he lodged all this monthe beinge demanded whether the sayd Iohn Drinkewater were att it this ^⌜examy*nates*⌝ howse the thursdaye nyght & went w*i*th this examynat to the playe saythe he dyd not butt sayth he saw the sayd Iohn Drinkewater at the playe about*es* x of the cloke/ & after the playe this examynat & Iohn Drinkewater & Thomas Locker went to Clark*es* howse & ther the spent pense a pece & so dep*ar*ted & went home/ & his *ser*u*an*t phelype Done w*i*th him/ and ^⌜Iohn⌝ Drinkewater p*ar*ted fro*m* this examynat & wher he Laye that nyght he know*e*th nott butt sayth [at] at his howse/ he Laye nott nether hathe he any yard ther/ being demanded wher his *ser*u*an*t Done was fro*m* v of the Cloke vpo*n* thusday nyght tyll

he went to the playe sayth he knoweth not except he was in his shoppe
(signed) Thomas Lynyall

phelype done being examyned wher he was vpon the thursdaye nyght Last sayth he went w*ith* his m*aste*r a bout*es* ix of the cloke & after to the playe & Iohn Drinkewater in company & after the playe ended went to clark*es* & ther the dranke/ & cam hom to‸⌜gether⌝ to his m*aste*r his howse & Iohn Drinkewater w*ith* them ⌜about xj of the cloke⌝ & Laye ther that nyght by Iohn Green his m*asters* consent/ & Lykewyse Laye ther this Last nyghte wherof Iohn Grene his m*aste*r was pryvey
(signed) Thomas Lynyall |

Iohn Drinkwater beinge examyned wher he was vpon thursdaye nyght Last [saythe] sayth he was vpon thursdaye in the after non fro*m* fowre of the cloke tyll viij of the cloke in Iohn Grenes house/ & fro*m* viij of the cloke tyll abou*tes* x of the cloke this examinat saythe he was at the play in the cornemarkett place/ in co*m*pany w*ith* Iohn Grene & his man/ & in co*m*pany w*ith* thoms Locker homward & by the waye [dranke] the dranke at the clarkes house in the estgatestre*et* & then went to Iohn Grenes & Lay ther all nyght/ being demanded wher he was vpo*n* frydaye saythe in town all daye & Laye at Iohn Grenes howse all nyght, & stored not a brode/ being examyned/ what he payd to se the playes sayth he payd nothing/ & payd at the clarkes howse [at the] for drinke ij d. being examyned what he dothe paye for his bed & lodging at Iohn Grenes saythe nothing for that he spendethe his money in the howse he gothe free of his bed/ being examyned how he mayntanyth him selfe to bere his charg*es* of expenc*es* sayth by dicing som tymes & other wyse by his frend*es* being examyned what sord*es* or wepons he hathe or dothe vse, saythe he hathe ‸⌜butt a dager⌝ nether dothe vse to lodge butt att Iohn Grenes house being demanded where he dyd dyen this daye & w*ith* who ‸⌜sayth⌝ at Widdo⟨.⟩ Later her howse w*ith* Leveloker maneinge Ric*hard* Carden W*illia*m Leche & W*illia*m Olte of helsby ‸⌜& others⌝/ and this examynat sayth he [Lost] gott money butt how moche he knoweth not & had in his purse when he went to playe v s. iiij d. & now he hathe in his purse xvij s. beinge demanded whether he this examynat ⟨...⟩ad that W*illiam* Newall was Robbed vpo*n* Thursday night ⟨...⟩ saythe ‸⌜he⌝ heard so/ butt who dyd hitt he knoweth not ⟨...⟩ demanded what gard*es* or other thing*es* he hathe ⟨...⟩ ⟨.⟩t Grenes howse sayth nothing
⟨...⟩ gameinge in town & specially eu*ery* satterday ⟨...⟩ ⟨...⟩y before spake of and somtymes w*ith* strangers

---

17/ thoms: *for* thomas

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 51/57
ff [1–2] *(23 November)*

Taken at Chester

...

Thom*as* Will*ia*ms of wrixsham in the countie of Denbigh exa*min*ed touchinge some platters or pewter dishes alledged to be stollen or taken oute of the dwellinge house of Thom*as* Case gen*tleman* saieth that he was yesterdaie in the afternoone aboute twoe of the clocke in the rowe [aboute twoe] anienst Mr Cases house and [stayed] came thither to haue begged a shirt & stayed there for an aunsweare, Exa*min*ed when he came to this citty saieth aboute a weeke since, and brought with him vj d. & noe more and had left thereof yesterdaie ij d., and shortly after twoe of the clocke went from Mr Cases rowe [t] into the Eastegatestreete, and then came to widowe humfreyes sellor [wt at] towardes night where he hath lyen [aboute at] since his cominge to this citty, [and] and a man & a boie whom this exa*min*at*e* met with by chaunce in streete went with this exa*min*at*e* thither, and the saied man did drinke there a pott of ale, and gaue this exa*min*at*e* p*ar*te, [An] and a little afore night the saied man & boie went from thence, which man & boie this exa*min*at*e* neu*er* sawe before neither did he eu*er* see ^⸢before this time⸣ Thom*as* Iohnes that [the] was exa*min*ed before him

(signed) Io*h*n Glaseour Maior
(signed) Ed*ward* Gamul |

Ales Humfrey widowe exa*min*ed saieth that yesternight [aboute ten] in the evninge the form*er* exa*min*ant was in this exa*min*ants house with whom was an other youth and were [sayed] sayinge they should goe to the play and that it was to timely to goe thither, and drunnke a pot of beere standinge vppon the floore ffor w*hi*ch the saied [Th] form*er* exa*min*ant paied, and forther saieth that the youth that is named Thom*as* Iohnes & is nowe with the saied form*er* exa*min*ant Thom*as* Will*ia*ms is very like both in proporc*i*on of his face & bodie & in speech vnto him, that was soe with the saied exa*min*ants sellor drinckinge yesternight, And saieth further that the saied Thom*as* Will*ia*ms saied to this exa*min*ant That he to whom he had geeven the pot of beere was of his acquaintance & his freind, and had giuen him [a p] heretofore a peny or a pott of beere, And also saieth that after that beinge betweene five & sixe of the clocke the saied Thom*as* Will*ia*ms went forth & when he came in againe, he saied that he had bene at Mr Cases house for [an] to haue begd an old shert and that the mayde [fa] ^⸢had⸣ aunsweared him, he should haue it in the morninge

(signed) Iohn Glaseour Maior
(signed) Ed*ward* Gamul |

Ales [howell] the wief of howell Edwardes exa*min*ed saieth that she was in the [house] sellor of Ales Humfrey when the form*er* exa*min*ant Thom*as* Will*ia*ms went forth of the seller aboute to of the clocke, and alsoe that he came in againe, but what he saied vnto the saied Ales Humfrey [suppen] ^⸢at⸣ his cominge in againe she cannot tell,

(signed) Iohn Glaseour Maior
(signed) Edw*ard* Gamull

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 51/58
single sheet *(23 November)*

Taken at Chester

...

Thomas Iohnes of llanbinmayer in the countie of Mountgomery examined ^⸢touchinge⸣ some platters or pewter dishes alledged to be stollen or taken oute of the dwellinge house of Thom*as* Case gent*leman* saieth that he was neu*er* acquainted with the three p*er*sons beinge a man a boy & a woman that were at supp*er* with him at Anthony Enos his house yesternight before he mett them there, and mett with them [there] by chaunce [yesternight] vppon the waie as he came from wrixham vppon a cawsey and soe came all together to Antony Enos his house, aboute three of the clocke and then this exa*min*ant went into the Northgatestreete to see a plaie, and left the other three at Anthony Enos his house, and aboute five of the clocke came to [his Osts] ^⸢the same⸣ house back againe [alinge] alonge the streete, and did not goe into any sellor or house before he came [to Anthony Enos his house] ^⸢thither⸣, and there supt, Exa*min*ed what money he brought with him to the citty saieth none at all, and that the reason that moved to sitt downe to supp*er* havinge noe money to paie for the same, was because his Ostes saied she would trust him, Exa*min*ed further when he sawe the saied woman that was yesternight in his companey or any of the other twoe, saieth that he did not see the [twoe wom] man & boie these seaven weekes last paste, And [sawe] ^⸢did not see⸣ the saied woman these seaven weekes last [paste], And saieth that did see the other man nowe committed & brought to be exa*min*ed in wrixham magginge aboute a weeke since, and did not see him at any time either before or since [now]

(signed) Iohn Glaseour Maior
(signed) Edw*ard* Gamull

28/ moved: *for* moved him

34/ that did: *for* that he did

AC *Copy of a Players' Company Warrant* BL: Harley MS 2173
f 81* *(10 November)*

a warrant for a Company of players to passe & play by from Ed*ward* Lord dudley 41 Q*ueen* E*lizabeth* 1595

To all maiors sheriffs baliffs Constables & all other her maiesties officers & louinge subiects greetinge wheras by virtue of the last act of p*ar*lament houlden at westminster it was enacted that no players should be p*er*mited to play or trauell in the Cuntrey in the quality of playinge w*i*thout the warrant & seale at Armes of a lord baron or some greater p*er*sonage, know ye therfor that I Edw*ard* sutton baron of dudley haue thought it good to licence & Authorize and by theis p*re*sens doe licence & authorise my seruants francis Coffyn and Rich*ard* bradshaw to trauell in the quality of playinge & to vse musicke in all Cittys Townes & Corporations w*i*thin her maiestyes dominons giuinge them free liberty to discharge any that shall trauell in my name but theirselues & their Company w*hi*ch I also authorise/ further I request you the rather for my sake to ayde them w*i*th your Countenances & p*re*sens & to lett them haue your Towne halls or other places fitt for their exersize as to other noble mens men of the like quality hath byn granted hertofore & to lett them passe w*i*thout lett molestation or Contradiction so longe as the behaue themselues well & honestly & to be debard from none exept it be in the tyme of diuine seruice w*hi*ch I thinke nether fitt nor convenient in wittnesse wherof I haue herunto put to my hand & seale the 16 of february in the 41th yeare of her maiesties 1595
E*dward* Dudley the seale broke

endorsed on the back
Mem*orandum* that francis Coffen & others w*i*thin named who were licenced to play as the lord dudleys seruants did repayre to this citty for that purpose 10 no*uember* 1602 & for as much as I am Credbly enformd the lord dudly had long since discharged the sayd Coffen & licensed certayn others w*i*th words of reuocation of this warrant w*hi*ch was shewed vnto me I haue therfore taken the same from them giuinge them admonitions nether to play in this citty nor els where opon payne of punishment accordinge to the lawes & statutes in that Case p*ro*vided
xi nou*ember* 1602 Hug*h* Glaseour maior
...

16/ dominons: *for* dominions
32/ Credbly: *for* Credibly

1603–4

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/23
mb 3 *(14 October–12 October) (Watergate Street)*

...

S*ir* Peeter Warburtonn knight for voyd ground and sometymes was the Drap*er*s Carridge howse xij d.

...

mb 6d *(Payments to city officers)*

...

Payd more to Iasper Gyllaume by the apoyntm*en*t of m*aste*r Maior beeing dew to him att midsom*er* last as Captaine of the watch in monney vj s. viij d.

...

mb 7 *(Payments)*

...

Payd more the xv^t day of ffebruary 1603 to Richard Innce and Edward dauies stewardes of the company of Sadlers. and was. towardes the payment of the silver bell for the horse Rase att Shrovetyde laste 1603 in money vj s. viij d.

...

Paid to the drummer on shrouetuesday xij d.

...

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 47 *(14 October–12 October)*

plague

°no midsomer wach by reason of Sicknesse was sett forth/°

Sorow and heavynesse in everye streete: the passinge bells at one Church or other almost never Ceased nighte nor daye. god graunte the lyke never happen Amongest us agayne. m*aste*r mayor was verye paynefull and dilligente for the good of the Cittye...

...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 19 *(14 October–12 October)*

...

The sicknes of the plague. increasd in this Cittye and died w*ith*in the Cittye from the begyning thereof w*hi*ch was about Bartholomew tyde 1603. vntill

---

18/ 1603: *underlined*
21/ Shrovetyde laste 1603: *6–8 February 1602/3*
23/ shrouetuesday: *20 February 1603/4*
30–3m/ no ... forth: *in RH II's hand*

the 13th octob*er* 1604. to the number of 650. and of other. desseases .61/
The watch at midsomer. not set out by reason of the sicknes of the plage/
…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [44v]* *(13 January 1603/4–13 January 1604/5) (Payments)*

…	
It*em* payde for wyne at Iohn Kenmons dinner	ij s. viij d.
It*em* payde to the minsterlls the same tyme	ij s. vjj d.
It*em* payde for alle the same tyme	iij d.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 16 *(11 November–11 November)*

…	
Itt*em* geven for the gleaves and barrych	vj s.
…	
Itt*em* geven to the wetmen at Srovetyd	ij s. vj d.
Itt*em* geven to henrye Shorlock pypar	iiij d.
Itt*em* geven to the stewardes of the Iovrnemen	xij d.
…	
Itt*em* geven to the mynstrylles on mydsomar Eyve	iiij s.
Itt*em* spent vpon the mynstrylles the same tyme	[⟨…⟩] ij s.
…	

f 16v

…	
Itt*em* spent and geven the xiij daye of septembar beying ovre meyting daye to the wetmen and for macking the hall Clayne	ij s. vj d.
…	
Itt*em* spent and geven to the wetmen at ovre meytyng tha xviij daye of septembar	xij s. iiij d.
…	

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/43

f [1] *(1 August 1604–1 August 1605)*

…	
Itam for our dineres and wine one oure electione day at our Allderman mr maninges	ix s.

18/ Srovetyd: *for* Shrovetyde; *18–20 February 1603/4*

Itam to the Kellyes at the same time for musicke v s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [123] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

It*e*m payd at Richard Bakers dyner for Wyne and to the mynstrells iij s. iij d.

...

Inventory of William Madock, Wait CCALS: WS 1604
f [1] *(4 September)*

An Inventorie taken of the goode*s* & Cattells of willi*a*m Maddock one of the waitmen of the Cittie of Chester decessed the ffourth daye of September Ann*o* 1604 praysed by Henry Scarisbreck Thomas lowe Tho*mas* Harrison & °*William* Bedford°

...

f [2v]

...

Instrument*es*	
A Sagbutt	xiij s. iiij d.
a dubble cortall	x s.
ij^{o} cornett*es*	x s.
a tenor viall	vj s. viij d.

...

1604–5

AC *Mayors List 5* BL: Harley MS 2125

f 47* *(12 October–11 October)*

...

no fayer Noe fayer kepte at mydsomer, neither the watch sett out w*hi*ch was Lamentable/: all this by reason of the sickenes of the plague/ God remove it farr from vs/

°nether any waches at Christmas Eue°

...

37/ nether ... Eue: *in* RH II's *hand*

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3

p 269 *(25 December–25 March)*

…

Inp*r*imis payd to the watchman Attending iij nightes vpon the maior and Sheriffes in Christmas & for Armour ij s. iiij d.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [45v]* *(13 January 1604/5–13 January 1605/6) (Disbursements)*

…

spent at Roger lea his din*er*

Inprimis paid for Will*ia*m Sanders his Dinner vij d.
more paid for iij^{e} pottells of dubble beare vj d.
more for a gallone of wine ij s.
It*e*m more to the minstrells ij s. vj d.
more for a pottell of Alle ij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 16v *(11 November 1603–11 November 1604)*

…

Itt*em* spent and geven to the wetmen and henrye Shorlock the viij daye of novembar being our meyting daye ix s. iiij d.

…

f 21* *(11 November 1604–11 November 1605)*

…

peade at our alldermans house at the Comminge in of our Brethrin v s.
giuen to ye weetmen ij s.

…

Item spent vpon a dynner in our Aldermans howse at the cominge in ⌈of⌉ will*ia*m Croughton the some of xj s. iiij d.
more geven to the waytmen the same tyme ij s.
more paide for our gleeves v s., and xij d. to the barage some is vj s.

…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/43

f [1v]* *(1 August–1 August)*

…

Itam I gave the Kellyes when the Alldermen w*i*th the

41/ I: *William Fisher, steward*

rest of our Compeny whear at my house and could
not stay for goinge to the maiores Court xij d.
Itam the Alldermen did apoynt at y*a*t same time y*a*t
I shoulde give the Kallyes apottell of Alle iij d.
…
Itam at meatinge houlden the xxixth of October when we
had oure diner at mr williames he then beinge Allderman
we paid for sevene gentellmenes dineres vij s.
Itam bestowed one ther wines y*a*t made y*a*t diner by
our alldermanes apoyntment a pottell of Saycke xvj d.
Itam the same time to the Kellyes for musicke v s.
…

Inventory of John Madock, Gentleman CCALS: WS 1605

f [1v] *(Proved 21 August)*
…
It*e*m 2 payers of virginalls at iij li.
…

1605–6

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 29

f 106v
…
ye Like Et q*uo*d via regia in Eccleston lane a le May poole in
Handbridge et locum vocatum ferreum pontem est in
Consimili decasu emend*etur*
…

Chester Diocesan Visitation Proceedings CCALS: EDV 1/14

f 22v *(7 February) (St Mary's parish)*

Held for Chester deanery, before Hugh Burches, cleric, MA, *deputy of David Yale,* LLD, *official principal*
…
con*tra* Constabul*ari*um Castell*i*
beareba*i*tinge w*i*thin the Castle vpon tuesdaie in the Easter weeke 1604
…

36/ tuesdaie in the Easter weeke 1604: *10 April 1604*

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

ff [48–8v] *(13 January 1605/6–13 January 1606/7) (Disbursements)*

…

Midsom*er* Accomptes	paid for a cheese	iij s. iiij d.
	pa*id* for vj li. of prunes	xviij d.
	pa*id* for a q*ua*rtr of a li. of suger	v d.
	pa*id* for a payer of stocking*es* for the child	xviij d.
	pa*id* for dressing the staffe	xij d.
	pa*id* to the cryer	ij d. |
	geuen to the prison*er*s at the Castell	iiij d.
	geuen to the northgate	vj d.
	spent at henrye Phillipes	vj d.
	pa*id* for Riboning for the childes shues	iij d.
	geuen for lone of the child*es* hatt	viij d.
	paid for a payer of gloues to hime that held the child	viij d.
	geuen to him that lede the horse	vj d.
	pa*id* for horse meate	vij d.
	geuen to the drom*m*er	xij d.
	pa*id* for a C‸⌜d⌝ wayffers	xij d.
	pa*id* for the child*es* shoes	xij d.
Midsom*er* Accu*n*t*es* endes	pa*id* for bread	xviij d.
	paid for drinke	iiij s. viij d.

…

Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Orders CCALS: ZG 6/1

ff [5v–6] *(12 June)*

…

Item wee the foresaid Stewardes, Thomas Marke*s* and Randle Dodd hath Lead out for the Companie and Collectted for the Companie yuse for Midsomer Watch in Settinge fourth our show and other Charges as doth Appeare

…

payment*es*

Item payd to Randle Houmes	viij d.
Item given at 3 gates	vj d.
Item payed to Thomas Whythby	iiij d.
Item paid to Thomas Casse	iiij d.
Item paid for Caringe of balam Ase	vj d.
Item paid to the minstrylles	viij d.
Item paid at The drynkeinge	iij s. 4 d.
Item for a peare of hose	xiiij d.

It*e*m paid for a hatte for the Companie house at ‸⌈a⌉ midsomer	iiij s. iij d.
In expences at The same time	vj d. |
It*e*m more lead out at Ioseph Teggine dinner for one pottle of wyne	xij d.
It*e*m more lead out at The same tyme	iij d.
It*e*m more lead out at will*iam* deayne diner	ij d.
	Sume is xv s. 4

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 21v* *(11 November 1604–11 November 1605)*

…

Item geven at geo*rge* Hyltons dynner the iiijth day of November 1605 for one pottell of seacke and one potter white wine	ij s. iiij d.
Item geven to the waytmen the same tyme	ij s.

…

f 22v* *(11 November 1605–11 November 1606)*

…

Item payde for one pottell of seacke at will*ia*m Croughton his dynn*er*	xvj d.
Item giuen to george kellye and his companye	ij s. vj d.
Item giuen to the waytmen	xviij d.
Item giuen to Harrye shorlocke	iiij d.

…

Item spent at Iohn Almon his cominge in at our Aldermans house the xv^th^ Ianuary 1605	iij s. iiij d.
Item more giuen to harrye shorlocke	iiij d.
Item giuen to the kellyes at the cominge in of danyell thropp beinge the xxiij^th^ day of Ianuary 1605 the some of	ij s.
Item giuen to harrye shorlock the same tyme	iiij d.
Item paid for gleeves at shrofetyd	v s.
more giuen to Iohn lingley to the barrage	xij d.
Item giuen to the waytemen at the same tyme	ij s.
Item giuen to the Iorneymen for theire attendance at that tyme	xij d.

…;

35/ shrofetyd: *1–3 March 1605/6*

f 23

. . .

Item paide for our boy ^⌈for his stocking*es*⌉ that did Ryde at the watch at mydsom*er*	ij s.
Item paid for Ahatt for our boy at midsom*er*	iiij s.
more paid for one paier gloves	vj d.
more for one paier shooes	xviij d.
more giuen to the Crier at the barres	vj d.
more giuen to the prisoners at the Castell and the Northgate	ij s.
more giuen to the two foote men	xx d.
more paid for musicke one mydsom*er* even	iiij s.
[‹..›jth Iuly 1606] Item paide for dressinge the staffe	viij d.
Item paide for one pottell of Sacke vpon mydsom*er* even at our drinkinge after the watch	xx d.

. . .

Item giuen to the waytmen & to the kellyes at our Alderman pembertons sonnes comy*n* in to the companye	iiij s.

. . .

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 74 *(25 March 1606–25 March 1607) (Charges)*

. . .

It*em* for dressinge of the stafe	viij d.
It*em* for shoes and Ribbins for ye Childe	ij s.
It*em* for hoose for the Childe that did Ride at midsomer	ij s.
It*em* for gloues and pointes	xj d.
It*em* for minstrels	xvj d.
It*em* for two fotemen	x d.
It*em* spent in wyne and sugar at the dressinge of the Chield	viij d.
It*em* to the Cryer at the bares	ij d.
It*em* to the Prisoners of the Castle and Northgate	vij d.

. . .

It*em* bestowed vppon wyne at Edwarde Heidockes dynner	xvj d.
It*em* more for musicke at the same dynner	xij d.

. . .

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 14* *(2 May)*

An order as Conc*ern*inge the settinge out the shooe vpon mydsomer even.

8/ Item more yt is further ordered concluded and agreed vppon by the same companye. That vpon midsomer even at the watche. shalbe set forth at the charges of the wholl companye of mercers and Iremongers, for the saide show, and the stewards for the tyme beinge, to pr*o*vyde against that tyme, some comely striplinge or boye, to Ride before the same companye, and also to get some other childe, to Ride as agentelwoman or ladye, in respecte that the said companyes of m*er*cers and Iremongers are vnited and made one companye and fellowshipp, whereas before they were two companyes, and the saide boye and ladye to Ride vpon two seu*er*all horses by them selves, and the saide Stewardes for the tyme beinge, to bye for eyther of said children, at the companyes charge. eyther of them a suit of app*ar*ill fyttinge for the said shew, not exceedinge aboue the some of five poundes of Currant money, and soe the same sutes of apparill, to contynue to the companyes vse, from tyme ^⌈to tyme⌉ at theire pleasures./

An order that everye brother Attend vpon the Aldermen at the watch vpon midsomer even

9/ Item more it is further ordered and agreed vppon by the same companye of m*er*cers and Iremongers, that all the said brethren shalby lawfull warninge giuen them by the steward*es* Attende at aplace appoyntted, attende vpon the Aldermen and everie brother to haue attendinge one them eich one his armed man or watchman. either in armore. or w*i*th Iacke, head peece, and blacke. bill, and soe eich man in his place indecente order to accompany theire saide aldermen w*i*th theire boye and ladye to the barres. where the watch is to be sett out, excepte the haue leave giuen them by the Aldermen to the contrarie, In paine of forfeature everye tyme soe offendinge. to the stewardes, for the vse of the same companye in name of a fyne in Currant Englishe money to be duely levied vpon everye such offender v s.

®v s.

p 19 *(2 May 1606–8 May 1607) (Charges)*

…

Item payde Roberte Smyth Tayler for makeinge a Taffita gowne for the ladye	vij s.
Item paide for ij payer of stocking*es*	ij s. viij d.
Item payde for two payer of spanishe lether shues	iij s. iiij d.
Item payde for aquarte of wine at mr Conwayes at the dressinge of the boye	vj d.
Item paide for two payer of gloves	ij s. j d.

Item paide to three men to leade the horses	xviij d.
Item payde vnto the prisoners in the Castell	xij d.
Item paide vnto the prisoners of the Northgate/	xij d.
Item payde the Crier	iij d.
Item paide for one payer of frenshe garters for the boye	ij s. vj d.
Item one dossine sylke poyntes	xvj d.
Item payde for makeinge the Taffyta shute for the boye to Roger handcoke Taylor	iij s.

…

p 20

Item more for the ladyes gowne three yardes of Russett Iene fustian at	iij s.
Item paide for two yardes of buceram at	ij s.
Item more xij yardes of whall bone	xij d.
Item for .9. skynes of collered sylke at	xiij d. ob.
Item ij yardes Du' gould p*ar*chement Lace weayinge A q*uarte*r and Du' of an ounce at	ij s. vj d.
Item ij dossin gould buttons	ij s.
Item ij yardes more of goulde p*ar*chement Lace weayinge Aquarter and dram at	ij s. j d.
Item Du' q*uarte*r yarde grine serge at	iij d.
Item for the boyes sute .3. q*uarte*rs yarde Course Canvas at	vj d.
Item iij dossine watched sylke buttons at	ix d.
Item iiij skaynes of sylke at	vj d.
Item q*uarte*r pound Right bumbast at	v d.
Item paide Rondall Houlme for keepinge our banner and Colloring the staffe in oyle collor	iiij s.
…	
Item paide mr Owen mercer for Taffyta for the boyes sute and the ladyes gowne the some of	lix s. 4 d.

…

p 21

Item p˄⌜[de]⌝ayde to Roberte Smyth for the ladyes gowne j yarde [d] q*uarte*r saccloth at 10 d. p*er* yarde is	xv d.
Item [⟨…⟩] more j skayne soeinge sylke at	j d. ob.
Item more for the winges of the gowne 19 yardes of Rybine at 20 d. p*er* dossine is	ij s. viij d.
Item in greene thrid	j d.
Item more iiij skaines of seawater sowinge sylke greene at	vj d.

Item j payer of bentes	ij d.
Item j payer of fustian Trunke sleeves at	ij s. x d.
Item iij yardes of welshe Cotton bought of Iohn Anyon at	iij s.
Item iiij yardes of white Ienes at	iiij s.
…	
Item paide for a staffe for stremer for our companye xvj d. and for payntinge the same 18 d. some is	ij s. x d.
Item paide for cakes one mydsom*er* even	ij s.
Item for vj li. prunes	xviij d.
Item more j potter of Clarrett wine j pottell of white wine and one pottell of sacke at	iij s. viij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [126v] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

…	
It*em* mending the Childs apparell	viij d.
It*em* for ‸⌜a new hower glasse and⌝ mending the Case	v ⟨.⟩
It*em* for hose and shooes to the Child	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* for a sokett to hould the banner	ij d.
It*em* for garters and gloves to the Child	ix d.
It*em* for mending the banner and Collering the staffe	xviij d.
It*em* to the prisoners of the Castle and northgate	viij d.
It*em* to the Cryer	iij d.
It*em* for our bankett on mydsomer Eve	vij s.
It*em* for the musike	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for the lone of a hatt at mydsomer eve	xij d.
…	

1606–7

Letter of William, Earl of Derby, to the Mayor CCALS: ZML 2/184
f [1]* *(2 December)*

This Companey beinge my Lo*rd* of Harforth his men and haveinge beine W*ith* mee, Whose retorne and abode for this Christmas tyme I expecte, I ame to desire that if theire occatione bee to Come to the Cittie that youe Will p*er*mit them to vse theire quallatie Lathome my howse this ijth of decemb*er* 1606

(signed) your Loving frend
will*iam* Derby

post Cript I would Request you to lett them haue the towne hall to playe in Ile vale/

AC ***Dispute between City and Cathedral over the Mayor's Sword***

BL: Harley MS 2173
ff 13v–14* *(11 February)*

At a session held before the bishop of Chester, William Wright, and Hugh Burches, royal commissioners for ecclesiastical causes in Chester diocese, in a chamber of the bishop's palace in Chester

...

88 the prebines accnoledgment of their falt to the Maior & the
Order of the Comitioners for their submition for
puttinge downe the sword 1606
endorsed
Copia decreti inter maiorem et Ciues Ci*uita*tis Cestrie ac
magistru*m* Petru*m* Sharpe etc. Regies Comission*arium*
etc. interpositis ii^{o} feb*ruarii* 1606

officiu*m* d*omi*noru*m* meru*m* decision*em* cuiusd*am* Contraversie inter venerab*ilem* viru*m* maiorem Ciuitatis Cestr*ie* et Ciuis eciusda*m* Ciuitatis ex vna et M*agistru*m Petrum Sharpe sacre Thelog*ie* bachalar*ium* prebendoru*m* Eccl*es*ie Cathed*ralis* Cestr*ie* vnu*m* ex altera Concernen*s*

...

At w*hi*ch day his maiesties Comissioners aforsayd hauing formerly w*i*th mature delibration consulted of & vpon the greuances of and by the sayd maior & Cittizens Conseaued agaynst the sayd Mr Sharpp and takinge knoledge therof as well by the Notoriety of the fact as other ways decreed to proceed sumarily to the dicision therof & did pronounce & sett downe their decree in manor & forme & vnder the tenur of the words folowinge viz.

Wheras descension variance & emulation hath of late arrisen & grone betwene the maior of the City of Chester & the Cittizens of the sayd Citty on the on part & the prebendaries & members of the Cathedrall Church of Christ in Chester aforsayd on the other p*ar*t espetialy that the sayd Mr Sharpe not hauinge had such respectiue Consideration as might haue byn fittinge (as this Court taketh it) did w*i*thin the sayd Cathedrall church w*i*th his hand seeme to put downe the sword borne vpright before the sayd maior w*i*thin the sayd church w*i*thout any speech vtred or motion to [him formerly made] the maior or his officer at that tyme & in that place to forbeare so to doe formerly by him made (as had byn more Convenient) wherupon much

---

17/ Regies: *for* Regis *(?)*
18/ interpositis: *for* interpositi
20/ Ciuis: *for* Ciues
20/ eciusda*m*: *for* eiusdem
21/ Thelog*ie*: *for* Theologie
22/ Concernen*s*: *3 minims for third* n *in* MS

discontent & hartburnings are taken w*i*th threatninge words & very offensiue & Contumelious speeches are giuen forth & Infamus libells published & spred abrode as well tendinge to the great scandall of the minasters & members of the sayd church as Importinge some outrage to be offred agaynst them or some of them in respect of the p*re*mises & for as much as hauinge called before vs the sayd Mr Sharpe & examined him of the Cause that moued him to that acction he affermed most Confidently that he did it not w*i*th any mynd of hatred or malice ether to the sayd maior or Cittizens or any of them nor yet to impeech or disgrace any of the p*ri*viledges or dignityes to the sayd maior or Citty belonginge but only therby to | to make title & Clame of & for the rights priuiledges & Imunitys belonginge and granted (as he did conseaue the same) vnto the sayd Cathedrall Church, w*hi*ch by that act of bearinge vp the sword in that place he doth take to be much p*re*didused & for no other Cause or Consediration what so euer, wee therfore his maiesties Comissioners aforsayd hauinge a spetiall regard & desier that vnity loue & peace betwene the maior & Cittizens & the members of the sayd church may be most firmly kept & p*re*serued & that all occations of further enormityes or any other turbulent misdemenor to be herafter attempted or Comitted agaynst the sayd p*re*bendaries or any other minister or member of the sayd church as of late by reason of the p*re*mises had very likly to be done if by the great Care & wisdome of the magestrate the same had not byn p*re*vented) may be stayd & for euer herafter cease, Doe order & decree that the sayd mr Peter Sharpe shall at some Convenient tyme freely & Ingeniuosly Confesse and accnoledge that, that acte by him alredy done & before expressed was not done of any hatred or malice nor in any Contempt that he had or did beare to the sayd maior or Cittizens of the sayd Citty or any of them but only w*i*th Intent & meaninge to signifie therby that the sayd m*aste*r maior by that his act of Carryinge his sword vpright in that place did Infringe the libertyes of the sayd Cathedrall Church to the p*re*seruation wherof he was sworne and in Consience bound (& that he is very sorrey for the same his act) & the rather for that the same is so hayniously taken & so great offence by the sayd m*aste*r maior or Cittizens Conseaued agaynst him by reason of the same, & it is also further ordred & decreed by vs the sayd reuerend father in God & others his maiesties Comitioners aforsayd That if the sayd ‸⌜m*aste*r⌝ maior of the Citty of Chester aforsayd or his successors shall herafter repayre to the sayd Cathedrall Church for the hearinge of diuine Seruice or sermons or for the p*ar*ticipiation of the sacrements or any other eccleasticall dutty there to be Celebrated hauinge his Sword Carried before him w*i*thin the sayd church or libertys of the same That then nether the sayd p*re*bendaries nor any of them nor any other officer or minister of the sayd church shall by them selues or any other by their p*ro*curement stopp or

---

19–21/ as of … prevented): *opening parenthesis omitted* stay or offer to hinder or lett the sayd m*aste*r maior so Cominge or rep*ar*inge to the sayd Church for the Causes aforsayd at any tyme herafter & that no ordnary dore or way shall be shutt or stopped agaynst him at any tyme when he shall so Come to the sayd Cathedrall Church for the Causes aforsayd or any of them, but that if any such dore doe happen to be shutt then vpon notice from the sayd m*aste*r maior in that behalfe to any of the p*re*bendaries or the head Saxton of the sayd church giuen the sayd dore shall be forthw*i*th opned vnto him and lastly this order shall be and remayne in force till such tymes as, ether by this Court, or els where by due Course of law, further order touchinge the p*re*mises shall be taken, the right & Intrest of the sayd partyes or ether of them touchinge the matters in varriance standinge still Inviolated and vnp*re*diuced this order and decree notwithstandinge

® the 2 Iudges order bet*ween* the maior & prebines vid*e* lib*rum* Rub*rum* 90 &

Copia Concordance Cum originale
penes Reg*istrari*um Cur*ie* p*re*dict*e*
remanen*ti* facta Collac*ione* p*er* me Ro*bertum* Colleigne
Reg*ist*rarij Regis

AC **Mayors List 5** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 48* *(10 October 1606–16 October 1607)*

...

a stranger came to the citty & his wife both danced on a Rope tyed ouerhead the s⟨..⟩eet at the high cross & shewed strange feats of actiuity

...

AC **Mayors List 7** BL: Harley MS 2133
f 46v *(10 October 1606–16 October 1607)*

...

A stranger did dance and vault vpon a Rope w*hi*ch was fastned a greate height aboue the ground ouer thwart the streete at the high Crosse w*hi*ch did seeme strange to ye behoulders

...

A **Mayors List 10** BL: Additional MS 29779
f 34 *(10 October 1606–16 October 1607)*

...

°Dauncing one a Rope°

A strange man Came to this Cittye and his wife & the did daunce vpon A Rope. Tyed over Crosse the streete: w*i*th other pleasante trickes: w*hi*ch was rare to the behoulders./

...

13/ Concordance: *for* Concordans
22/ actiuity: *3 minims in MS*
36–7m/ Dauncing ... Rope: *in RH II's hand*

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 20* *(10 October 1606–16 October 1607)*

...

Will*ia*m Hynckes butcher did Ride his horse about the walls of this Cittye before Io Tizer could gether vp. 60: litill stonnes. w*hi*ch lay one yarde in sunder. to be taken vp one after and other and put into A baskett. where the first stonne lay. w*hi*ch wager or bett will*ia*m hynckes wonne:

...

A stranger did daunce vpon A Rope tyed one high at the hie Crosse. with other exercizes w*hi*ch was Rare to see

...

AC ***Deeds and Customs Concerning Chester*** BL: Harley MS 2150
f 162v* *(November)*

an order for wearinge of Gownes caused to be sett downe
in this forme by mr Phillip Phillips Maior 1606

All Iustices of Peace w*i*thin this Citty of chester theis seuerall days and feasts followinge are to weare their Scarlett Gownes & thos feastes and dayes all other Aldermen theie not ‸⌈being⌉ Iustices of peace to weare their Murrey Gownes & also sheriffs & sheriffs peeres for euery thos days to were their best Gownes & like order to be obserued at other tymes so often as m*aste*r Maior shall appoynt vpon payne of xij d. for euery defalt

All Saintes
5th of nouember
m*aste*r maiors wach
Christmas day

m*aste*r maiors feast
new years day
Epiphanye or 12th day

Purification day
Coronation day
Easter day
Loue sunday

Asension day
Whitsonday

Trinity Sonday
midsomer eue
5th August
& at m*aste*r maiors appoyntment

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 299 *(25 November–25 December)*

...

It*e*m to the waite*s* at o*u*r audit xij d.

...

p 300 *(25 December–25 March)*

…

In*primis* for a wachman his a*rmour* & his paines 3 night*es*	ij s.

…

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

ff 8–8v *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

…

It*em* for Taffeta for the bann*er* for the Companies vse at mydsomm*er*	xiij s. vj d.
It*em* to Randle Holmes for paynting the bann*er*	xl s.
It*em* a staffe for the bann*er*	xx d.
the yron for the bann*er*	xiiij d.
It*em* fringe for the bann*er*	ij s. viij d.
It*em* for buckram to make a Sockett for the banner	iiij d.
It*em* a payre of stockinges for the boy that ryed at Mydsomm*er*	xxij d.
It*em* a payre of shues for him	xx d.
It*em* gloves for him	ix d.
It*em* layd out in travelinge to procure a Chayne against mydsom*er* for the Childe	xij d.
It*em* for a pottle of wyne and Suger at the dressinge of the Childe	xx d.
It*em* for Cheese and bread at the banquett at mydsomm*er*	iiij s. vj d.
It*em* for stronge beere at mydsomm*er*	ij s. viij d. |
It*em* for prunes and Sugar	xiiij d.
It*em* payd to mr back for a Samon for the banquett	iiij s.
It*em* for a gallon of wyne for the company at our banquett one mydsomm*er* even	ij s. viij d.
It*em* given to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* to the prison*ers* at the Castle	vj d.
It*em* to the prison*ers* at the northgate	vj d.
It*em* given to two footemen one mydsom*er* even to attend the Childe	xvj d.
It*em* to the musick one mydsomm*er* even	v s.

…

for a Saddle lost one mydsomm*er* even at mr Rattclyffes	v s.

…

Bowyers’, Fletchers’, Coopers’, and Stringers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

ff [52–2v]* *(13 January 1606/7–13 January 1607/8) (Disbursements)*

. . .

geuen to the Minstrells at Will*ia*m fishers. the third of August	iij s.

. . .

Midsom*er* Accompt*es*

paid for the child*es* hoes	xviij d.
paid for shoes for the child	xviij d.
paid for Riboning for the child*es* shoes	iiij d.
paid for iiij li. prunes	xij d.
paid for dressing the staffe	viij d.
paid for a payer of gloues for the child	iiij d.
paid for walnut*es*	iiij d.
paid for ijo footemen	xij d.
spent at henry Phillipes	ij s.
paid for d. a barr*el* of beeare	v s.
paid for a cheese	ij s. viij d.
geuen to the northgate	vj d.
geuen to the Castle	iiij d.
geuen to Sidall	ij d.
geuen to the Musition*ers*	xxj d. |
geuen to the Crier	iiij d.
paid for bread	xxij d.
paid for wine	ij s. ij d.

. . .

spent at Thom*as* Tomlinsons Dinner

ffirst spent at Thomas Iohnes in beare	xxij d.
in Wine	xx d.
geuen to the minstrells	ij s. vj d.

. . .

Cappers’, Pinners’, Wire-Drawers’, and Linen-Drapers’ Orders CCALS: ZG 6/1

f [29]* *(15 June)*

. . .

Ciuitas Cestr*ie*

°Linan drap*ers* was forgott°

Wheras the companye of Cappers. and brickelayers w*i*thin this Cittye haue bene at the charges in settinge foorth of the shewe or watche at Midsomer of balaam and Balaams Asse. Wherevnto aswell the freemen of the ‸⌜Company⌝ lynnen drapers, brickemakers and brickelayers of this Cittye also the foreriners inhabbitinge w*i*thin this Cittye, and vseinge the trade aforesaid haue bene accustomed to bee Contributory, These are therefore to Aucthorize Roberte

---

38/ Company: *for* Company of

Ridley and Thomas markes. Aldermen of the Companye of ‸⌈°Linen drap*ers*°⌉ bricke layers. Rondall Dood and Iosephe Teggen. stewardes of the same companye to collecte of everye of the p*er*sons aforesaide all such somes of money as they haue bene heretofore accustomed to paye and as haue bene accustomed to bene collected towards the Charge aforesaide, Gyven vnder my hande the xvth daye of Iune 160*(blank)*

phillippe phillippes maior

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 2v* *(30 December) (Items in storage)*

...

more one dublett and one payer of breech of Taffyta

[more one collored hatt lyned w*ith* greene Taffyta.]

more our collors in sylke w*ith* our companyes armes

...

f 23v *(11 November 1605–11 November 1606)*

...

Item more spent at our Ald*erman* Inces upon St m*ar*tens even at Night at a drinkeng of the companye	xx s.
more paid for one pottell of sack the same night	xx d.
Item paid to the waytmen the same night	ij s. vj d.
Item paid to harrye shorlocke	iiij d.

...

f 27v *(11 November 1606–11 November 1607) (Disbursements)*

...

Item paid for sixe gleeves to Iohn lingley the gouldsmyth and the beriage w*ith*all some is	vj s.
more [for] giuen to the stewards of the Iorney men for theire attendance at ⌈Shroftyde⌉	xij d.

...

Item paid for one paier of showes for the boye at midsom*er*	xvj d.
Item paid for j paier of stockeing*es*	xvj d.
Item paid for his gloves	vj d.
Item paid for mendinge the Collors	vj d.
Item giuen to mr brynes man vpon mydsom*er* even	ij s. vj d.
Item giuen to the Crier at the barres	vj d.
Item giuen to patricke & will*iam* Coldocke	xij d.
Item giuen to the musioners	iiij s.

1/ Linen drap*ers*: *caret erroneously follows* Companye *in* MS

31/ Shroftyde: *15–17 February 1606/7*

40/ musioners: *for* musisioners

Item given to the prisoners at Castell & northgate	ij s.
Item given to will*ia*m siddall	iiij d.
Item paid for poyntes	iiij d.

…

f 28

Item paid for sacke vpon mydsom*er* even	ij s.

…

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

pp 19–20* *(29 June–29 June) (Disbursements)*

…

p*ai*d for making a new staffe for the bann*er*	xij d.
p*ai*d for painting the staffe	vj d.
p*ai*d for prunes	ix d.
p*ai*d for a payer of shoes for the child	xx d.
p*ai*d for 1 payer of stocking*es* for the child	xxij d.
p*ai*d for ⟨.⟩ a payer of gloues for the child	vj d.
p*ai*d in streking the chains of old iewells & other necessaries for the child	xij d.
p*ai*d for bread beare & cheese after the banquett	v s. viij d.
p*ai*d for a quarte of wine & suger at dresseng the child	viij d.
for a pottell of wine at the banquett	xij d.
geuen to the Crier	ij d.
geuen to the prisoners at the castell	vj d.
geuen to the ⟨..⟩ison*er*s at the Northgate	iiij d.
p*ai*d for a fall ⟨…⟩ for ⟨…⟩ pa⟨…⟩ at ⟨…⟩ banquett	ij s. ij d. |
geuen to ⟨..⟩ footemen w*hi*ch went w*i*th the Child	xvj d.
p*ai*d for ⟨…⟩ at the watch	iij s.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 77 *(25 March 1607–25 March 1608) (Charges)*

…

It*em* paied for one paire of Stockens for the Childe y*a*t Rode at Midsomer	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* more for one paire of shoes	xviij d.
It*em* for gloues	ix d.
It*em* for Ribbins for the Shoes	ij d.
It*em* for payntinge the staffe	viij d.
It*em* to the mynstrels	iij s.

It*em* to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* to the Prysoners of the Castle and Northgate	vij d.
…	
It*em* spent & bestoed at Ric*ard* Calcot*es* Dynner in wyne and Ale and to the Mynstrels	v s.
…	
It*em* for two fotem*en* to leade the horse	viij d.

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book

CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 33 *(8 May 1607–6 May 1608) (Charges)*

payde and disbursed, against mydsomer watch viz

Item paide for ij payer of shues. for the two children	ij s. vj d.
Item paide more for two payer of stocking*es*	ij s. iiij d.
Item payde for two payer of sweete gloves	xviij d.
Item more for two payer of sylke garters	iij s.
Item iiij yardes .2 d. Rybin at 6 d. for sue ties ij d. for two skynes sylke .2 d.	x d.
Item xij li. prvnes .2 s. for cakes .2 s. 6 d. for comfett*es* 10 d. some is	v s. iiij d.
Item to the prisoners at castell and Northgate	ij s.
Item to the Crier 4 d. more to two poore men. 6 d. some is	x d.
Item payde to the piper. ij s. more for beere at the barres 4 d. some is	ij s. iiij d.
Item for iiij o*unces* synamond	xiiij d.
Item payde for one quarte of wyne at mr Cases . and one quarte at mr lyttlers beinge at the dressinge of the two children	xvj d.
Item paide for two pottells of wine clarrett one pottell of white wine and one pottell of sacke for the company at	v s. viij d.
Item payde Rondall hoolmes the hearalde at armes the thirde day of Iuly 1607 for payntinge the two banners new.	43 s. 4 d.
and for layinge the staves in oyle, & to his man given 8 d. some is	xliiij s.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [129]* *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

…	
It*em* spent at wid*ow* Basnetts vpon St lukes day	vj s.

It*e*m to the musicke at the same tyme	iij s.
It*e*m payd for wyne at the same tyme	xviij d.
It*e*m spent at Rob*er*t Thornleys dyn*n*er in wyne	ij s. vj d.
It*em* at the same tyme for musicke	ij s. vj d.
…	
It*em* for hose shewes and gloues. for the Child vpon mydsomer eve	iij s.
It*e*m to the Cryer vpon mydsomer eve	iiij d.
It*em* to prisoners of the Castle and northgat	viij d.
It*em* for sylvering the Lase of the Chylds [lase] Clothes at mydsomer	xx d.
It*em* for musike vpon mydsomer eve	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for our bankett vpon mydsomer eve	vij s.
…	

Smiths', Cutlers', and Plumbers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 20/1

f 2v

…

To goe in decent Order

21. It*e*m yt was ordered the vj^th^ of Iune 1607. by the full and whole Consent of the Companie that everie brother w*hi*ch shall att anie tyme hereafter, att anie Midsomer Watch, or att theire departure from anie meetinge goe out of decent order, but duelie Keepe theire places accordinge to theire Calling*es* & Seignioraties shall forfeit for everie such offence vj d.

…

1607–8

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

f 302v *(20 September)*

…

°George Cally graunted to be free gratis°

And at the same assembly It is graunted vnto George Callye Musitioner vpon his humble petition exhibited in regarde he was borne broughte vpp and hath all his life tyme hitherto dwelled in this Citie That he shalbe admitted into the Lib*er*ties thereof and made a freeman of the same Citie gratis and w*i*thoute payinge anie thinge therefore

…

Petition of Thomas Fisher, Musician, to the Mayor and Council
CCALS: ZAF 8/18
single sheet*

To the right wor*shi*p*ful*le the maior Ald*ermen* sheriffe and Common Counsell of the Citie of Chester

The humble petition of Thomas ffisher Musitioner

shewinge

That he was borne and broughte vpp in the Citie aforesaid, That his graundfather and all his Auncestor⟨.⟩ before him were Freemen of the said Citie and therefore the petitioner meaninge to lead the reste of his life in the same Citie is desirous to become a freema⟨.⟩ thereof

That the qualitie he professeth is Musicke and that he is ignoraunte and not experienced in any trade neither will vse or exercise any whereby anie Companie of tradesmen in the said Citie mighte receive pr*e*iudice

The petitioner doeth therefore earnesly beseeche your wor*shi*ps to graunte at this assembly That he maie be made a freeman of the said Citie And he will not only paie such imposic*i*on as his poore abillity will extend to but will ever praie for your prosperities

°not fitte with a generall vote/°

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/24
mb 2 *(16 October–14 October) (Payments)*

...

p*ai*d vnto Will*ia*m hancock and nicolus hallowoodd paynter*es* the xxvij^o^ of maij and was to repayre the gyant*es* againste the show at mydsomer	xliij s. iiij d.
...	
p*ai*d for the Carrege of the drum on mydsomer eue	xij d.
p*ai*d Thomas Welsh for carryinge the antient	ij s. vj d.

...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 20v* *(16 October–14 October)*

...

A Gallerye buylt at the Roode eye. for m*aste*r Maior and the Aldermen.

...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 327 *(25 November–25 December)*

...

It*em* to the waite*s*	xij d.

...

p 328 *(25 December–25 March)*

...

Imp*rimis* to the wachman [⟨...⟩] to attend the may*or* & sheriff*es*	ij s.

...

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff 11–11v *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

...

It*em* for a payre of stockinges for the childe that rydd at Mydsomer	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for a payre of shues for the childe	xv d.
It*em* for gloves for the Childe	viij d.
It*em* for wyne and suger at dressinge of the Childe	ij s.
It*em* charges in procuring a Chayne and other Iewells for the Childe	xij d.
It*em* payd to Randle Holmes for the keepinge of the banner	xij d.
It*em* given to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* given to the prison*er*s at the Castle	vj d.
It*em* given to the prison*er*s at the Northgate	vj d.
It*em* for bread and Cheese for the banquett one Mydsom*er* even	iiij s.
It*em* for stronge beere at the banquett	ij s.
It*em* for prunes and suger the same tyme	xiiij d.
It*em* for three quartes of wyne at the bankett	ij s.
It*em* given to two footemen to leade the horse and guide the Childe one Mydsom*er* even	xvj d. |
It*em* for Musicke one Mydsom*er* even	ij s. vj d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [54v]* *(13 January 1607/8–13 January 1608/9) (Disbursements)*

...

Midsom*er* accompt*es*

ffirst for half a barr*el* of dubble beare	vij s.
p*ai*d for a cheese	iij s. ij d.
p*ai*d for a payer of shoes for the child	xviij d.
p*ai*d for a payer of hoes for the child	xviij d.
p*ai*d for iij li. of prunes	[ij d.] vij d.
p*ai*d for a payer of gloues for the child	iiij d.
p*ai*d for bread	ij s. vj d.
spent at the Barres	v d.
geuen to cryer at the barres	iij d.
geuen to Suddall	ij d.
geuen to the prison*ers* at the castell	iiij d.
geuen to the Northgate	vj d.
paid for a pottell of seck bestowed vpon the Companie at Midsom*er*	ij s.
geuen to the Minstrels	xij d.
paid for suger & sinomon	iij d.
paid for horse bread	iiij d.

...

°spent at William Catterall his dinner one gallone of wyne price	ij s. viij d.
more a pottell of secke	ij s.
more a pottell of Alle	iiij d.
more gaue the muisickiconeres	iij s.°

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 31 *(11 November–11 November) (Disbursements)*

...

Inprimis paide vnto the waytemen by the Aldermens appoyntm*ent* at will*ia*m Gregoryes Dynner in money	xij d.
Item paide the same tyme to pemburton ye waiteman	xij d.
Item paide the same tyme to George kellye and his companye by the Aldermens appoyntm*ent*	ij s. vj d.

...

Item paid for vj gleaves	vj s.

...

Item given to the wayte men at shrove thursday	ij s. vj d.

40/ shrove thursday: *10 February 1607/8*

Item given to the stewards of the Iorneymen at shrove Tyde	xij d.
…	

f 32

mydsom*er* charge

Item paide for our boye. that did Ryde vpon midsomer even for one paier gloves & sylke point*es* at	xx d.
Item paide for one paier stocking*es* & a paier shues at	iij s. iiij d.
Item paide for a hat for our boye & for one fether	iiij s. vj d.
…	
Item giuen to the cryer	vj d.
Item giuen to will*iam* sidall	iiij d.
Item at the Castell & northgate to the prisoners	ij s.
Item paid for sue ties of sylke Ryben	iiij d.
Item paid to the man that lead the horse vpon midsomer even	iij s. [vj d.]
Item more paid for the removing of the horse sues	vj d.
Item giuen to the two Iorney men for houlding & attendinge the childe	xij d.
Item spente the same daie at our drinkeinge one pottell seacke	ij s.
Item giuen to the musioners	iij s.
Item spente at the dressinge of the Childe vpon midsom*er* even	ij s. vj d.
Item spente more	vj d.
…	

f 32v

…	
Item giuen vnto the kellyes the v^th^ august 1608 beinge the king*es* daie at A dynner	ij s.
…	

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1
p 30 *(6 July–6 July)*

…	
geuen to Iohn Garnett toward*es* the Making of the banner	xx s.
geuen to the bearebruers vpon Agrem*en*t for o*ur* Companie toward*es* the show at midsom*er*	vj s. viij d.
…	

2/ shrove Tyde: *6–8 February 1607/8*

23/ musioners: *for* musisioners

p 31

…	
23 Iunij paid for a fishe bestowed vpon the bearebruers and o*ur* selves after midsom*er* shoe	v s.
geuen to the steward*es* of the bearbruers vpon agrem*ent* for o*ur* Companie at midsom*er* showe	vj s. [vij d.] viij d.
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 79 *(25 March 1608–25 March 1609) (Receipts)*

…	
Item receaued of Robert ap Hugh for a fyne for wanting an harnes man vpon Midsomer euen	vj d.
Item receaued of Edward Hedocke for the lyke	vj d.
…	

f 79v *(Disbursements)*

…	
Item for a payre of shoes and ribbens for the Childe w*hi*ch did ryde at midsomer	ij s.
Item more for hose	xviij d.
Item for gloues	vj d.
Item spent in Wyne and suger at the dressinge of the childe	x d.
Item. to the Muscicans	xvj d.
Item to three men to leade the horsse	xij d.
…	

f 80

…	
Item spent at Richard Coes dynner in Wyne	iij s. iiij d.
…	
Item to the Musicians at the same dynner	iij s.
…	

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 41 *(6 May 1608–5 May 1609) (Charges)*

…	
Inprimis paide at midsomer at the watch at our drinkinge for suger sinamond cloves & comfett*es*	iij s. viij d.
Item paide for cakes	iij s. iiij d.
Item paide for 9 li. prvines	ij s. vj d.

Item paide for one potter seake	ij s.
Item paide for two gallans & one pinte of w*hi*te wine and clarett & venaker	v s. x d.
Item paide for doble beere	iiij s.
Item paide for two paier of hoose at	iij s.
Item paide for two paier shues for the children at	ij s. vj d.
Item paide for two paier silke garters for the two children	iij s.
Item paid for two paier gloves for them	j s. iiij d.
Item paide for silke Riben Laces poyntes and pynnes for them	xxj d.
Item paide for one velvet girdle for the boye	xij d.
Item paide at the barres castell & Northgate	ij s. vj d.
Item more paide vnto Lame siddall	iiij d.
Item paide vnto the men that did attend the children & theire horses	iij s.
Item paide to kellsall the officer & other watchmen that did attend the londoners ⌈at midsomer⌉	iij s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [130] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

...

It*em* for hose shooes and gloves to the Child that Rydd	ij s. x d.
It*em* for our bankett on mydsomer Eve	vij s.
It*em* to the prisoners and Cryer at the same tyme	xij d.
It*em* for a blacke fither	xvj d.
It*em* for musike at mydsomer	xij d.
It*em* for mendinge the banner	xij d.
It*em* to Thomas Gyllam	vj s. viij d.

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 55/75

single sheet* *(23 February)*

Taken before William Aldersey, alderman

...

Edward Clarke Examyned saith he was borne in the Isle of Ely and is by p*ro*fession a Musicioner beinge examyned Concerninge the takinge away of diu*er*se goods and Iewells of mr Leigh of Bageliey & his daughter vtterly denieth the takinge stealinge or Carryinge away of anie such goods Iewells or thinges whatsoever wherew*i*th he is Charged.

He saith he was servaunte in housholde to the said Mr leighe duringe one yeare and Came from his seruise a fortnighte or three weekes since vnto this Citie and lodged at the Sarizons head in this Citie/

(signed) Edward Clarke

1608–9

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff 14–14v *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

...

It*em* payd for a payre of stockinges for the Childe that rydd at mydsom*er* for the companie	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for a payre of shues the same tyme	xv. d.
It*em* for gloves for the Childe	viij d.
It*em* for wyne and suger at dressing the Childe	ij s.
It*em* Charges in procuring Chaynes and other necessaries for the Childe	xij d.
It*em* payd to Randle holmes for the keeping of the banner	xij d.
It*em* given to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* given to the prison*ers* at the Castle	vj d.
It*em* given to the prison*ers* at the northgate	vj d.
It*em* for bread and Cheese at the banquett one mydsom*er* even as hath beene allowed in form*er* yeares	iiij s. |
It*em* for stronge beere at the banquett one mydsom*er* even	ij s.
It*em* for prunes and suger the same tyme	xiiij d.
It*em* for foure q*ua*rtes of wyne the same tyme	ij s. viij d.
It*em* given to two footemen to attend the Childe	xvj d.
It*em* to a man to leade the horse	vj d.
It*em* for musicke to goe w*ith* the companie one mydsom*er* and at the bankett	v s.
It*em* for a Samon more then the drawers in dee sent	xx d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [55v] *(13 January 1608/9–13 January 1609/10) (Disbursements)*

...

Midsommer accompt*es*

gaue for a cheese	iij s. iiij d.
gaue for halfe a barrell of beare	vij s.
gaue for a payre of hose for the childe	xvj d.
gaue for a payre of gloues for the childe and for the footeman	ix d.
gaue for three pound pruines	viij d.
gaue for a payre of shoes for the boye	xxj d.

gaue for bred	ij s. ij d.
more spent at the barres	xiij d.
gaue to the cryer at the barres	iiij d.
gaue to Syddall	ij d.
gaue to the prisoneres at the castell	iiij d.
gaue to the prisoneres at the northgate	vj d.
paid for a quarte of alle at the banquitte	iij d.
gaue for a pottell of secke	xxij d.
gaue to the musickesoneres	viij d.
gaue for sugar	iij d.
gaue for sinomon	iij d.
gaue for horse bred	iij d.
gaue to the mane for leadinge the horse	iiij d.

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 33 *(11 November 1607–11 November 1608)*

...

Item spente in the Ald*ermans* companye on St m*ar*tens even	iiij d.
Item paid for one gallon seacke vpon St m*ar*tens even beinge the 10th daye of november 1608	iiij s.
Item paid vnto Roberte kelly for musicke	ij s.

...

f 38* *(11 November 1608–11 November 1609) (Disbursements)*

...

Item spente when our brothers wente to drinke with our Alderman younge in An overplushe	xvj d.
Item geven to Richarde barlow man pickeringe for singinge	vj d.
Item spente more when we wente to drinke with our Ald*erman* sale in An overplushe	iiij s.
Item geven at the same tyme to pickeringe Richarde barlowes man	vj d.

...

f 38v*

...

26 Ia*nuary* 1608

Item paid at Roberte boydells at the cominge in of Richard Tottye. to be brother. in wine	iij s. iiij d.
Item more the same tyme in overplushe spent	vij s. xj d.

41/ xj d.: x *corrected from* v

Item geven to Roberte kellye	ij s. [iij d.]
…	
Item geven for the v. gleeves	v s.
Item geuen to the berage	xij d.
Item geven to the waytemen in the Comen hall	ij s.
…	
Item [s] geven to the Iorneymen for theire paines at Shrovetyde	xij d.
…	

f 39

…	
Item spente. at Alderman younges house vpon midsomer even at our drinkeinge after the watch In an overplushe	x s. iij d.
Item spente w*it*hout the out the barres	xij d.
Item to the Crier	vj d.
Item giuen to Sidall	iiij d.
Item spente at geo*rge* Kellies house on the even	ij d.

f 39v*

…	
Item geven to the prisoners at the Castell & the Northgate	ij s.
Item geven to mr massyes foure men . w*hi*ch did Attende the boy w*hi*ch Ryde for vs	iiij s.
Item geven [ge] danyell wright w*hi*ch held the staffe	vj d.
Item geven Roberte kellye & his companye for our musicke	iiij s.
Item spente the same tyme in seacke	xx d.
Item paide for dressinge our staffe	xviij d.
Item paid for one paier shooes for our boye one paier stockeing*es* shue ties and gloves	vij s.
…	
Item giuen to Roberte Kelly and his fellowes in Tho*mas* Inces	ij s.
Item spente at an overplushe	ix d.
…	

f 43v* *(Receipts)*

…	
[Item geven to Roberte Kelley & his fellowes the companye beinge at Thomas Inces house	ij s.

8/ Shrovetyde: *26–8 February 1608/9*

15/ w*it*hout the out the: *dittography*

Item spente the same tyme in an overplushe	ix d.]

. . .

Item Received of dauid allen for his fyne. his man binge absente vpon midsomer even	vj d.
Item Received of harrye leeyne for the same	vj d.
Item Received of Rondall hall for the same	vj d.
Item Received of Iohn Almond for the same	vj d.

. . .

Itèm Received of humphrey lyniall for his fyne for abuseinge hym selfe vpon midsomer even in goeinge w*i*th the watch to R*i*ch*ard* barlow & R*i*ch*ard* barlow lykewise to him to pay 12 d.	xij d.
Item Received of Richard barlow for the same abuse to the said humphrey 12 d.	xij d.

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42
f [1] *(1 August 1609–1 August 1610) (Disbursements)*

. . .

Ite*m* paide the last of August to make vppe the rec*c*oning for our dinner [after] at Mr Buttons house after our meetinge	vj s. viij d.
It*em* paide more for wyne the same time	x d.
It*em* giuen the same day vnto george Callie for Musicke	v s.

. . .

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 82 *(25 March 1609–25 March 1610) (Receipts)*

. . .

Item of Edward llen*n* for not haveinge an Harneis man vpon Midsomer even	vj d.
Item of Edward Hedock for the lyke and not attendinge in p*er*son	vj d.

. . .

f 82v *(Charges)*

. . .

Item for the Childes stockinges	ij s. iiij d.
Item for his shoes	xviij d.
Item for his gloues	viij d.
Item for tyes for his shoes	iiij d.
Item for a quarte of Wyne and suger at his dressinge	x d.
Item payd to three men to attend the Childe	xij d.

Item to the Musitian	xviij d.
Item for a quarte of Renish Wyne	xij d.
Item to the Cryer iiij d. to the prisoners of the Castle iiij d. and to the prisoners of the Northgate iiij d. in all	xij d.

…

Mercers’, Ironmongers’, Grocers’, and Apothecaries’ Company Book

CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 43 *(5 May 1609–4 May 1610) (Charges)*

…

	li.	s.	d.
Item paide the 13 maye 1609 for blacke Taffita . sylke . and Reben . for the repayringe of the Tippitt*es*	00	04	08 d.
Item paide Lewes williams for doinge the Tippett*es*	00	02	06
Item paide for a neale and halfe of w*hi*te taffyta & foure skeanes of sylke . for the repayringe of the boyes clothes	00	01	09
Item paide for two payer of shooes for the Children	00	02	04
Item paide for two payer of gloves for the Children	00	02	00
Item paide for two payer of hoose for them	00	04	08
Item paide for one yarde greene Reben for the boyes clothes	00	00	02
Item paide hugh Iones for his worke	00	01	02
Item paide for iij yardes ½. tincill Reben	00	01	02
Item paide for vj li. prewnes 12. ounc*es* Comfett*es*	00	02	11
Item paide for Cakes and spice for the same	00	04	10
Item paide for wine and beere	00	08	00
Item paide for muzicke	00	08	00
Item paide mr Holmes for keepinge the banners	00	02	00

…

p 44

…

	li.	s.	d.
Item giuen to the prisoners at the Castell & Northgate	00	1	0
Item paide for beere at the barres	00	1	0

…

Painters’, Glaziers’, Embroiderers’, and Stationers’ Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [132v] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

…

Inprimis on St Lukes daye at Iohn framwalls dyner for wyne	iiij s. vij d.

It*em* to the wayets the same tyme	ij s. vij d.
...	
It*em* for hose showes and gloves for the Child at mydsomer	iij s. vij d.
It*em* for Rybans to the horse heade	iij d.
Item to the Cryer	iiij d.
It*em* to the prisoners of the Casle and northgate	viij d.
It*em* for our bankett on mydsomer Eve	vij s.
It*em* for Ale at the same tyme	xx d.
...	

A ***Rogers' Breviary*** CCALS: ZCX 3
f 1* *(3 July)*

To the Reader

Gentle Reader I am boulde to *pre*sente vnto yo*u*r sighte a breuary of Chester that Anchient Cittie, the w*hi*ch howsoeuar it be not profitable, for anye y*a*t seeke deuine consolation. yet it maye be delighteful ^⌜to⌝ [m]any, that desire to heare of antiquitie, [the] which worke heare followinge was the collectiones of a lerned and Reuerende father within this Cittie: [the] w*hi*ch worke I muste craue the readers hereof not to [⟨...⟩] contemne, because of the defectes herein, assuringe you, that whatsoeuar is wantinge, either for lerninge or Readinge it is not for the wantes, y*a*t weare in the author hereof, for both this Cittie and these partes did [fullye] knowe his full abillitye and sufficiencie in those respect*es* And therefore I alledge. the Resones y*a*t moued the Author to this worke, And the reson whye it is not perfected in that p*er*fection y*a*t he Intended [⟨...⟩] craueinge pardon for any thinge herein: Either nakedly or Improperly set downe. The resons that moued hime heareunto, as I conseaue was, because he was heare borne. and his *pre*dicessors also, and some of them beinge of the beste rancke within this Cittie. and also because he himselfe was a continuall resident within this place. And did desire the continuall honor wealthe and good estimation of this. anchiente Cittie. But the Reson whye it was not p*er*fected. was the ereuokeable will of God. whoe before he coulde finishe this, or many much more excellente and deuine treatises, called hime and gathered hime to his fathers in a tymely death and full of dayes, And soe he lefte this and manye more of excellente vallue, vnfinished, euen as abodye w*i*thout a head: Therefore againe I craue the Readers hereof to Impute the defectes herein to the vnskillfull writer, whoe indeede is altogether vnfitt to take anye such matter in hande, whoe wanteth both learninge and

Collation with BL: Harley MS 1944 *(1944)* f 4: 27 is] was *1944* readinge in this kynde to finnishe up this treatise, and also I maye bouldlye saye wanteth tyme, to co*m*bine it in that fashon which it requireth [⟨…⟩] craueinge only but acceptacion for my desyre. willinge to displease none. but desiringe *ya*t ^⌜all⌝ defectes herein may be Imputed to the vnskyllfull writer. and if any good effecte, that it be imputed to the Author. And thus wisheinge the honor and perpetuall good estate of this moste anchiente and Righte wor*shi*pf*ul*le Cittie, I euer reste a continuall well wisher, obliged in all loue as God nature, & reason byndethe mee:

per Da*vid* Rogers:
1609
Iuly 3th 1609

ff 17–24*

Now for the lawdable exersises yearelye vsed within the Cittie of Chester.

the homage of a footeball was offered to the company of Drapers, before the maior, and not to the maior,

M*emorand*um that whereas the companye and occupation of the shooemakers within the Cittie of Chester. tyme oute of the memorye of man vpon tuesedaye com*m*only called shrouetuesedaye, or otherwise, Goteddesdaye on the afternoone of the same daye. At the crosse vpon the Roode Dee. before the Maior of the same Cittie, did offer vnto the companye of the Drapers. of the Cittie of Chester. an homage. A ball of lether called a foote ball: of the value of iij s. iiij d. or there aboute.

Collation with BL: Harley MS 1944 *(1944)* ff 21–1v; CCALS: DCC 19 *(DCC)* ff 34v–6; BL: Harley MS 1948 *(1948)* ff 58–60; and Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5 *(L)* ff 24–5: 16 Now … Chester.] Now of the lawdable exercises and playes of Chester, yerelye there vsed: *1948; between the heading and the entry, DCC and L insert the following poem:* Certamina elympyca: Istamina nehemia Ellis: † | Sacrap*er* Arginas certamina quatuor vrbes | Su*n*t, dies facta viris, et duo cœlitibus: | vt Iouis et Phœbi, melicertæq*ue*, Archemoriq*ue* | prœmia; oliuaster, poma, apiu*m*, picea. | *with L reading:* Sacra p*er for* Sacrap*er*, et *for* vt, *and* pono opiu*m for* poma, apiu*m* 16 for] of *L* 17–24m the homage … maior,] The oulde homage by ye shomakes to ye drap*er*s in Chester *DCC;* The ould homage of ye Shomakers: *1948; L omits* 17 M*emorand*um that] *1948 omits* 18 Chester.] Chester did yearelye *DCC L;* Chester did yerelye *1948* 18 tyme … man] (time out of the memorie of man no man remembringe the origenall thereof) *1948* 20 called] *L omits* 20 otherwise] *1948 omits* 20–1 on … daye.] at afternoone *DCC L* 22 same] *1948 omits* 22 did] *DCC L omit* 23 the Cittie] the same Cittie *DCC 1948 L* 24 there aboute.] aboue: *DCC;* there aboute: the w*hi*ch when it was receaued, the drapers did giue the same ball p*re*sentlye there to be played for, by the shooemakers & sadlers, to bringe the said foote ball to any of the 3 howses either of the mayor or either of the Sheriffes, then that side to wine the same ball: *1948*

There is no reson by any truly to be giuen of the firste of these homages donne to the drapers by the shooemakers sadlers and all maried p*er*sones but the custome of antiquitie and the charge of the same homages of anchant tymes. but these customes are of as greate force beinge truly anchant as any Record or deede of specialtie w*hi*ch and proued by the custom belongeinge to the crowne. w*hi*ch may not be denied †
And by reson of greate hurte. and strife which did arise amonge the yonge persones of the same Cittie. while diuars partes weare taken with force and stronge hande to bringe the saide Ball. to one of these three howses. that is to saye to the Maiors howse. or to any one of the Sheriffes howses for the tyme beinge. muche harme was donne some in the greate throunge fallinge into a transe. some haueinge theire bodies brused & crushed, some theire, armes, heades. and legges broken and some otherwise mayemed or in perrill of theire liffe; Now for to auoyde the sayde Inconuenienses, And also to tourne and conuerte the saide homage to a better vse: It was therefore thoughte good by the Maior of the saide Cittie. and the Reste of the com*m*on counsell. to make exchange of the saide Ball as followeth: That in place thereof theire shoulde be offered by the Shooemakers. vpon the same shroue tuesedaye vj gleaues of siluer. the which gleaues the appoynted to be rewardes to such men as woulde come and the same daye and place passe and ouerrunne on foote all others. And the saide gleaues weare presentlye deliuered acordinge to the Runinge of euẹrye one. And this exchange was made when Henrye Gee. was Mayor of Chester, an*no* do*mi*ni .1539. an*no* .32. Henry the 8

Collation continued: 1–6 There is … denied] The vse of ye ould ho*m*age; *DCC;* ye new homag now: to ye drapers: *1948; L omits* 1 reson] *1944 omits* 1 firste] origenall *1944* 7 hurte. and] *DCC L omit* 9 one] any *1948* 9 these] the *1948* 9–11 that … beinge.] aforesaid *1948* 10 to^{3}] *DCC L omit* 10 Sheriffes howses] Sheriffes *DCC;* twoe Sheriffes houses *L* 13 and^{1}] or *DCC L* 13 or] and *1948* 14 Now] *begins a new paragraph in DCC and against it left marginalia reads* change of ould homage*; 1948 L omit* 15 homage] homages *1944* 15 therefore] *DCC 1948 L omit* 16 by] to *DCC L* 16 Cittie.] Cittie, Aldermen *DCC* 16 counsell.] Counsell, w*i*th the concente of the said drapers, *1948* 17 Ball] footeball *DCC L* 18 shoulde] *L omits* 18 by the] by the said *DCC* 18 Shooemakers.] Shoemakers. to ye drapers *L* 18 vpon … tuesedaye] vnto the Drapers, before the maior the same day & place, *DCC;* [the same ‸⌈day⌉], vnto the drapers, the same [and] Shrouetuesday *1948; L omits* 22 when] in the time when *L* 22 Henrye] mr Henrie *DCC;* mr Henry *1948* 23 an*no* do*mi*ni … 8] an*no* do*mi*ni: 1539: an*no*: 32: henry: 8: *1944;* an*no* do*mi*ni *(blank)* the: 31 yeare of king Henry the 8: *DCC;* beinge the 21th yeare of the raigne of kinge Henry the 8th: And the yeare of our lord God: 1539: *1948;* An*no* d*omi*ni 1539. And in ye 31: yeare of kinge Henry the .8. *L*

The olde homage of the sadlers was a ball of siluer offered to the Drapers before the maior

Also whereas the companye and occupation of Sadlers within the same Cittie of Chester did yearely bu custome. tyme out of the memorye of man. the same daye hower and place. before the sayde Mayor. did offer vpon a trunchon or staffe or speare. vnto the co*m*panye of Drap*er*s a certayne homage called the sadlers ball. profitable for fewe vses or purposes as it was.

This ball was torned into a siluer bell when mr Henry Gee was maior .1539. w*hi*ch is 70 yeares agoe

This homage as is saide before was torned into a siluer bell wayeinge in siluer *(blank)* at the leaste. The which bell was ordayned to be the rewarde for that horse which with speede runninge there shoulde run*ne* before or ouerrun*ne* all others And there presently shoulde. be | geuen the same daye and place. This alteration was made the same tyme, and by the same Mayor like as the shooemakers footeball was before exchanged into vj siluer gleaues.

The forfett of not offeringe this siluer arrow or gleaue to the Drapers on shroue tuesedaye. next after any mariage is 10 li. by the maried p*er*son so offendinge.†
All p*er*sones maried w*i*thin the liberties of Chester a*n*d dwellinge ells where and all p*er*sones dwellinge w*i*thin the liberties of Chest*er* and maried els

Collation continued: 1–6m The olde … maior] The sadlers ould homage to ye Drap*er*s: *DCC;* The sadlers ould homage to the Drapers: *1948; L omits* 1 same] *1944 DCC L omit* 2 tyme … man.] *DCC omits* 3–4 sayde … staffe or] said Maior, Offer vnto the said Company of Drapers w*i*thin the said Cittie of Chester *DCC;* said Mayor, vnto the Companye of Drapers in Chester did offer vpon the trunchon of a staffe or *1948;* Mayor, offer vpon a Trinchon: staffe, of *L* 4 vnto … homage] acertayne homage to the drapers of the Cittie of Chester *L* 4 vnto … Drap*ers*] *DCC 1948 omit* 5 ball.] ball. beinge a ball of silke of the bignes of abowle, w*hi*ch was profitable for few vses or purposes as it was: The w*hi*ch ball the said Drap*ers* did Caste vp amonge the throunge, to gett it who coulde, in w*hi*ch thronge also much hurte was done, the same mayor & Aldermen w*i*th consent of the drap*ers* aforesaid did alter and Change: *1948* 7–14m This ball … agoe] The change of this ould homage: *DCC;* The new homage to the drapers: *1948; L omits* 7 This … bell] That in place thereof the said Company of Sadlers shoulde offer before the mayor vnto the Drapers, abell of siluer *1948* 7 This … before] As before is said *DCC;* beinge a ball of silke of the biggnes of a bowle, *L; begins a new paragraph in base* MS *only* 7–8 in … leaste] *(blank)* at the leaste *1948;* about 2. oz. as is supposed of siluer *L* 8 which bell] which saide silver bell *L* 8 ordayned] ordayned also *1948* 9 speede] spedy *L* 9–10 or ouerrun*ne*] *DCC 1948 L omit* 10 same] *L omits* 11 made] made at *DCC;* made ‸⌜at⌝ *1948* 14–16 The forfett … offendinge.] The oulde homage of all maried p*er*sons to ye drapers *DCC 1948; L omits* p 329, l.17–p 330, l.3 All p*er*sones … Drapers,] The new homage to ye drapers of maried p*er*sons: *DCC;* The new homag to the drap*ers*: *1948; L omits*

2/ bu: *for* by

wheare are to deliuer vp a gleaue to the wardens of the Drapers. or to forfet to the drapers x li. now it is sertayne if the forfett be to the drapers then the homage of all is donne vnto the Drapers,†
Also whereas of custome whereof mans memorye now liueinge cannot remember the origenall and begininge. The same daye hower and place. and before the mayor of Chester for the tyme beinge euerie person that was maried within the liberties of Chester and dwellinge els where: And euery person dwellinge within the liberties of the saide Cittie and married els where. did offer vnto the companye of Drapers likewise a balle of silke of the bignes of a boulle. The same Mayor torned the same boulles of silke into siluer arrowes, The which arrowes they tooke order shoulde be giuen to those which did shoote the longest shoote with diuars kyndes of arrowes. for w*hi*ch homages the Drap*ers* ‸⌜by custome likewise⌝ doe feaste the mayor. the co*m*panyes of Sadlers and shoemakers. vpon shroue tuesedaye after the homages be p*er*formed and those games played. with bread and beere and the nexte ‸⌜day⌝ after in the afternoone. beinge Ashewensedaye. with leeckes and salte. and the 3 daye after y*a*t w*i*th a [banquete] bankett ‸⌜all w*hi*ch are⌝ in the co*m*mon hall of the same Cittie.

These exchanges of these homages. donne to the co*m*pany of Drap*ers* was as it semeth moderated on both sides by the wisdome of the Cittie. that both should haue theire due namly the homage done to the Drapers. and

Collation continued: 1 or] or els *1944* 2 to^2] *1944 omits* 4 of] of au*n*cient [time] *DCC;* of Anchante [time] *1948;* of ‸⌜an⌝ Anchant *L* 6 of Chester] *1944 DCC 1948 L omit* 6 that was] w*hi*ch is *DCC L;* y*a*t is *1948* 7 liberties] Cittie *DCC* 7 Chester] the said Cittie *1948 L* 7–8 and dwellinge … Cittie] and liberties thereof, or dwelled w*i*thin the Cittie the yeare before, *DCC;* and dwelled els where, or that dwelled w*i*thin ye Cittie the yeare before *1948;* dwellinge wheresoeuer w*i*thout, And all those that [for the] dwell w*i*thin the saide Cittie *L* 8 and … where] & was maried els where *1948;* for one yeare befor and marye else wheare *L* 9 offer] offer likewise *1944 DCC L* 9 vnto … likewise] likewise an homage to the said Companye of drapers, before the mayor *L* 9 the^1] the said *DCC* 9 likewise] *1944 omits;* w*i*thin ye Cittie of Chester *DCC;* in Chester ‸⌜an homage⌝ *1948* 9 bignes] quantitie *1948;* like bignes *L* 10 boulle.] boulle, fitt for few vses: *DCC;* boulle, profitable for few vses or purposes: *1948* 10 same^1] said *DCC* 10 torned] w*i*th concente of the drap*er*s afforesaid, did torne *1948* 10 same boulles of silke] same balles at the same time *DCC;* said balls *1948;* same balls *L* 11 giuen] the rewardes giuen *1948* 12–18 for … Cittie.] *DCC L omit;* as ye flighte, ye brod arrow & the buttshafte,: *1948* 14 the] these *1944* 15 and^3] *1944 omits* 16 salte.] salte & bread & beere: *1944* 17 y*a*t] *1944 omits* 17 are] are ‸⌜keapte⌝ *1944* 18 the] this *1944* p 330, l.20–p 331, l.2 These exchanges … co*m*mended:] The co*m*mendation of this excha*n*g: *DCC;* Comendation giuen by mr Rob*er*t Rogers, in this exchange: *1948; L omits*

the benifitt thereof. should be for the publike recreation of the whole Citti there assembled. for which there wisdome is co*m*mended: †
This exchange was made as before is mentioned of shooemakers footeballe. and sadlers ball. And the silke balls of all the maried p*er*sons. In the which exchange there appeared greate wisedome in those Anchant and sage senators. In whome was seene greate studye and regarde to torne the aforesayde thinges vnto so profitable excersises: So that thereof the moste com*m*endable practises of walike feates. As of Runninge of horses and shooetinge of the broade arrowe. the flighte and the butchafte in the longe bowe with Runninge of men on foote. are there yearely vsed which is doone in uerye fewe, if anye Citties of Englande so farre as I doe vnderstande; |

Now of the playes of Chester called the whitson playes. when the weare played and what occupationes bringe forthe at theire charges the playes. or pagiantes.

these playes are abolished

Heare note that these playes of Chester called the whitson playes weare the worke of one Rondoll. a moncke of the Abbaye of Sainte Warburge in Chester. whoe redused the whole historye of the bible into englishe storyes in metter. in the englishe tounge. and this monke in a good desire to doe good published the same. then the firste Maior of Chester. namely S*ir* Iohn Arneway knighte he caused the same to be played. the man*n*er of which playes was thus they weare deuided into 24 pagiantes acordinge to the co*m*panyes of the Cittie. and euerye companye broughte forthe theire pagiant w*hi*ch was the cariage. or place w*hi*ch the played in. And before these playes there was a man w*hi*ch did Ride as I take it vpon St Georges daye throughe the Cittie and there published the tyme and the matter of the playes in breeife the weare played vpon mondaye tuesedaye and wensedaye in whitson weeke And thei firste beganne at the Abbaye gates. and when the firste pagiante was played at the

Collation continued: 3 exchange] Change *1948* 4 And ... p*er*sons.] *DCC 1948 L omit* 6 In ... seene] who had *DCC 1948 L* 7 excersises] vses and exercises *L* 7 thereof] there is three of *L* 7 practises] exercises, and practises *L* 8 As of] As ru*n*ninge of men on foote, *DCC 1948 L* 8 of[1]] *1944 omits* 9–10 with ... foote.] *DCC 1948 L omit* 10 doone] vsed *DCC* 10 if anye] (if in any) *DCC 1948 L* 11 doe] *DCC 1948 L omit* p 331, l.13–p 332, l.17 Now of .... played] *for variant versions, see pp 441–2, CCALS: DCC 19, ff 39v–40v, and pp 485–6, BL: Harley MS 1948, ff 64–4v* 15 or] & *1944* 18m are] are now *1944* 23 pagiantes] pagiantes or partes *1944* 23 co*m*panyes] nu*m*ber of ye Companyes *1944* 25 And] And yerelye *1944* 25 these playes] these ^⌜were⌝ played *1944* 25 man] man fitted for ye purpose *1944* 27 breeife] breife which was called ye readinge of the banes. *1944*

8/ walike: *for* warlike

Abbaye gates then it was wheled from thense to pentice at the highe crosse before the maior and before that was donne the seconde came. and the firste wente into the watergate streete. & from thense vnto the Bridgestreete and so one after an other tell all the pagiantes weare played appoynted for the firste daye. and so likewise for the seconde and the thirde daye. these pagiantes or carige was a highe place made like a howse with 2 rowmes beinge open on the tope, the lower rowme theie. apparrelled and dressed them selues. and the higher rowme [s] theie played. and thei stoode vpon vj wheeles. and when the had donne with one cariage in one place theie wheled the same from one streete to another. firste from the Abbaye gate. to the pentise. then to the watergate streete. then to the bridge streete. through the lanes & so to the estegatestreete. And thus the came from one streete to another. kepinge a directe order in euerye streete | for before thei firste Carige was gone from one place the seconde came. and so before the seconde was gone the thirde came. and so tell the laste was donne all in order withoute anye stayeinge in anye place. for worde beinge broughte howe euerye place was neere doone the came and made noe place to tarye tell the laste was played:

Heareafter followeth the Readinge of the Banes which was reade before the begininge of the whitson playes beinge the breeife of the whole playes

The Banes./

S*ir* Iohn Arnewaye the first maior of Chester first sett oute the whitson playes *anno* d*omin*i 1329. beinge made by a moncke na*m*ed Rondoll. of the Abbey of St warburge

Reuerend Lordes and Ladyes all
That at this tyme here assembled be
By this message vnderstande you shall.
That sometymes there was Mayor of this Cittie
S*ir* Iohn Arnewaye knighte whoe moste worthelye
Contented him selfe to sett out in playe
The deuise of one Rondoll Moncke of Chester Abbaye

Collation continued: 4 so] soe all *1944* 5 these pagiantes] *1944 adds* ye description of ye pagentes they played in *as marginalia* 7 and^{2}] and in *1944* 13–14 from one place] *1944 omits* 15 and so tell] and so the thirde, and so orderly till *1944*

Collation with BL: Harley MS 1944 *(1944)* ff 22v–5; BL: Harley MS 2013 (Chester Plays) *(R)* ff 1–3v; and Bodl.: MS. Bodley 175 (Chester Plays) *(B)* ff 1–2v: 19–22 Heareafter … The Banes] The Reading of The Banes 1600 ℭ The Banes which are Reade Bee Fore The Begininge of the Playes of Chester 1600. 4 June 1600 *R; B omits* 24–36m S*ir* … warburge] *R omits* p 332, l.24m–p 335, l.17 S*ir* Iohn Arnewaye … Apparell comlye] *B omits* 28 knighte] *1944 omits* 30 one] one done *R*

This moncke
was of the
most esteimed
a godly man
and religeose
in those dayes

This Moncke not Monckelyke, in scriptures well seene
In stories traueled with the beste sorte
In pageanttes sett forthe apparante to all eyne
Interminglinge therewithe onely to make sporte
Some thinges not warranted by anye wrytte
Which glad the hartes he woulde men to take hit

the matter of
the play he
made in xxiiij
p*ar*tes or
playes. here he
is co*m*mended
for his worke

This matter he abreuiated into playes xxiiij^{tie}
And euerye playe of the matter gaue but a taste
Leaueinge for better learned, ye cercumstance to acomplishe
ffor all his proceadinges maye appeare to be in haste
yet alltogether. vnprofitable his labor he did not waste
ffor at this daye an euer. he desearued the fame
Which fewe Monckes deserue[d] proffessinge the same |

This moncke
without fere of
marterdome sett
out in enlishe
the storye of
the testament,
the bible that
men mighte
vnderstand
and beleue:

These storyes of the testamente at this tyme y*o*u knowe
In a co*m*mon englishe tonge neuer reade nor harde
yet thereof in these Pagiantes to make open showe
This Moncke and noe moncke was nothinge affrayde
W*i*th feare of burninge. hangeinge. or cuttinge of heade,
To sett out that all may Deserne and see
And parte of good belefe. beleue ye mee,/

These playes
weare uerye
chargeable to
the Cittie and
had greate
labor to make
them readye.

As in this Cittie Dyuars yeares the haue bine set out
So at this tyme of Pentecoste called Whitsontide
Allthoughe to all the Cittie followe labore and coste,
Yet god giueinge leaue, y*a*t tyme shall y*o*u in playe
ffor three dayes togeather begine on mondaye
See these Pageantes played to the beste of theire skill.
Wherein to supplye all wante. shalbe noe wante of good will.

Collation continued: 1–6m This … dayes] *R omits* 1 not] *R omits* 3 In pageanttes … eyne] *followed by* the olde and newe testament with liuelye comforth *R* 3 apparante] apparently *R* 6 glad the hartes] to gladd the hearers *R* 8–14m the matter … worke] *R omits* 10 learned] learninge *R* 13 desearued] deserveth *R* 14 fewe] all *R* 14 deserue[d]] deserves *R* 14 the same] that name *R* 16–25m This moncke … beleue:] *R omits* 19 noe] *R omits* 21–2m testament, the bible] testame*n*te w*i*th ye bible *1944* 22 parte of good belefe] parte good be lefte *(or possibly* leste*) R* 24–30m These playes … readye.] *R omits* 28 begine] begyninge *R* 30 Wherein] wher *R* 30 wante. shalbe noe wante] wantes shalbe noe wantes *R*

13/ an: *for* and

here he confesseth that the liued in the tyme of Ignorance wantinge knolege to vse the holy thinges of god arighte. yet this mo*n*ke had a good Entente to doe good thoe blyndly he did shew it †
As all y*a*t shall see them shall moste welcome bee
So all y*a*t doe heare them. we moste hu*m*blye praye
Not to compare this matter or storye
W*i*th the age or tyme wherein we presentlye staye
But to the tyme of Ignorance whearein we doe straye
And then dare I compare y*a*t this lande throughout
None had the like. nor the like durste set out

he sayeth y*a*t if neither matter or shewe, doe ⟨.⟩ffecte the Companye then his labor was loste for to please the co*m*panye was all his gaine. In antiant tyme there was noe such excellent & curiose wittes. †
If the same be lykeinge to the co*m*mons all
Then oure desyre is satisfied, for y*a*t is all oure gayne
If noe matter or shewe. thereof enye thinge speciall
Doe not please but mislycke ye moste of the trayne
Goe backe againe to the firste tyme I saye
Then shall y*o*w finde the fine witte at this daye aboundinge
At y*a*t daye & y*a*t age, had uerye smale beinge

he desires y*a*t the grosse wordes herein vsed ‸⌜not⌝ to be condem*n*ed, for now in oure age and tyme the seeme strange & grosse yet the weare the same wordes, which we now vse ‸⌜thoe⌝ with more fine wordes a*n*d exellent speech. †
Condemne not oure matter where groosse wordes y*o*u heare
which Importe at this daye smale sence or vnderstandinge
As sometymes postie, bewtye, in good manner or in feare
with suchlike wilbe vttered in theare speaches speakeinge
At this tyme those speches caried good lykinge
Thoe if at this tyme y*o*u take them spoken at that tyme
As well matter as wordes, then all is well fyne |

S*i*r Iohn Arnewaye the first maior set out these playes a*n*d, caused the

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Collation continued: 1–3 here he … shew it] *R omits* 1 here he] heare *1944* 5 doe] *R omits* 8 to] in *R* 8 doe] did *R* 9 And then dare] then doe *R* 10 durste] dost *R* 12–14 he sayeth … wittes.] *R omits* 16 satisfied] to satisfie *R* 17 enye thinge] *R omits* 23–6 he desires … speech.] *R omits* 24 age and] *1944 omits* 28 Importe at] Impart as *1944* 29 bewtye] lewtie *R* 32 if] *R omits* 33 all is well] is al well and *R* p 334, l.35–p 336, l.2 S*i*r Iohn … charges] *R omits* co*m*panyes to make the cariges for them to playe in. euery co*m*panye at theire owne charges.†

This worthie knighte Arneway*e*, then mayor of this Cittie
This order tooke, As declare to y*o*w I shall
That by xxiiij^{tie} occupationes, Artes, Craftes, or misterye
These Pagiantes shoulde be played after brefe rehearesall.
ffor euerye Pagiante a Cariage p*ro*uided withall.
In which sorte we purpose this Whitsontyde/
Oure Pagianntes into three partes to deuide

The wor*thie* companye of the Ta*nn*ers playe.

1 Now y*o*w worshipfull Tanner y*a*t of Custome olde
The fall of Lucifer did trulye sett out
Some writers awarrante y*ou*r matter therefore be bolde
Lustelye to playe the same to all the route
And if anye therefore stande in anye dowbte
y*ou*r Author his Author hath youre shewe lett bee
Good speeche fine playes with Apparell comlye

The welthie Drap*er*s playe.

2 Of the Drapers you the welthie companye
The creation of the worlde. Adam & Eue.
Acordinge to y*ou*r welthe sett oute wealthelye
And howe Cayne his brother Abell his life did bereaue

The simple waterleaders & drawers in Dee.

3 The good simple Waterleaders & drawers of Dee
See that in all poyntes y*ou*r Arke be prepared
of Noe and his Chilldren the whole storie
And of the Vneuersall floode by you shall be playde

The antient Barbers and Waxe Chandlers playe.

4 The sacrefise y*a*t faithfull Abraham of his sonne should make
y*o*u barbers & waxe Chandlers of antiente tyme
In the 4th Pageante with paynes ye did take
In decent sorte sett out, the storye is fyne
The offeringe of Melchesadecke of bread & wine

Collation continued: 5 by] *1944 omits* 7 prouided] to be p*ro*vyded *R* 11 Tanner] Tanners *1944* 12–15m The ... Ta*nn*ers playe.] worsh*ipfu*ll Ta*nn*ers *R* 12 trulye] *R omits* 15 therefore] therof *R* 17 playes] players *R* 19m 2] *B omits this and all subsequent verse numbers* 20–21m The ... Drap*er*s playe.] drapers *R; B omits* 21m playe.] *1944 omits* 25–8m The ... Dee.] water leaders drawers in dee. *R; B omits* 29 of] to *R* 30–3m The ... Chandlers playe.] Barbers Wax chaundler‸⌜s⌝ *R; B omits* 31 did] doe *R* 33m playe] *1944 omits*

And the *pre*seruation thereof sett in youre playe
Suffer *yow* not in enye poynte the storye to decaye

Cappers and Linan Drap*ers*. playe.

5 Cappers and Lynen Drapers, see that ye forthe bringe
In well decked order that worthie storye
Of Balaam & his Asse & of Balaacke the kinge
Make the Asse to speake and sett hit out lyuelye !

The Lusti wrightes and Sclaters playe

6 Of Octauyan the emperower. *ya*t coulde not well allowe
The *pro*phesye of antiante Sybell the sage
you Wrightes & slaters w*ith* good players in shewe
Lustely bringe forth. yo*ur* well decked Caryage
The birth of Christe shall all see in that stage
In the scriptures a warrau*n*te. not of the midwiues reporte
The author tellethe his author. then take hit in sporte

The Deckeinge Paynters and Glaseers playe

7 The appearinge Angell. & starr vpon Cristes birthe
The Shepperde poore of base and lowe degree
you Paynters and Glaseers. decke out with all myrthe
And see that Gloria. in excelsus. be songe merelye
ffewe wordes in the Pagiante. make merthe trulye
ffor all that the author had to stand vppon
Was glorye to god on highe & peace [t] on earthe to man

The worthie Marchantes and Vinteners playe.

8 And *yow* worthie marchantes vinteners *ya*t now haue plentye of wine
Amplye the storye of those wise kinges three
That through Herod*es* lande & realme by *ya*t starr did shine
Soughte the sighte of ye sauioure. that then borne shoulde bee

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Collation continued: 1 *pre*seruation] presentacion *B* 2 decaye] take Awaye *R* 4 forthe] *1944 omits* 5–7m Cappers … playe.] cappers Linen drap*ers* *R; B omits* 10–12m The … Sclaters playe] wrights slaters *R; B omits* 12 well decked] *1944 omits* 14 In] yf *R B* 15 in] *1944 omits* 18–20m The … Glaseers playe] Painters Glassiers *R; B omits* 18 The Shepperde] to Sheapeardes *R* 21 the Pagiante. make] that pageante makes *R* 22 author] Alter *R* 23 on highe] Aboue *R* 23 on … man] ‸⌜in earth⌝ [to god &] man *B* 25 of wine] *B omits* 26–8m The … Vinteners playe.] merchants vintners *R; B omits* 26 Amplye] Amplifye *R B* 26 wise] *1944 omits* 27 *ya*t starr] ye starr *1944;* the starr that *R;* the starr *ya*t *B*

26/ Amplye: *for* Amplifye (?)

The wor*thie* Costely and fine mercers playe

9 And y*o*u wor*thie* mercers. thoughe costelye and fyne
ye tryme up yo*u*r Cariage as custome euer was
yet in a stable was he borne that mightie kinge deuine
Poorelye in a stable betwixte an Oxe and ane Asse

The Goldesmythes and Massons. playe.

10 Y*o*w Goldesmythes and Massons make comlye shewe
How Herode did rage at the retorne of those kinges
And howe he slewe the tender male babes
Beinge vnder twoe yeares of Age/

The honest Smythes playe/

11 Y*o*w Smythes honeste men. yea & of honeste arte
How Criste amonge the Doctors, in ye temple did dispute
To sett out yo*u*r playe comlye. hit shalbe youre parte
Gett mynstrell*es* to that Shewe pype Tabrett and fflute |

The Butchers. playe

12 And nexte to this y*o*w the Butchers of this Cittie
The storye of Sathan y*a*t woulde Criste needes tempte
Set out as accustomablie vsed haue ye
The Deuell in his ffeathers. all Rugged and rente

The wett and drye glouers. play.

13 The death of Lazarus and his riseinge againe
y*o*w of Glouers the whole occupation
In Pageon w*i*th players orderlye let hit not be payne
ffinelye to aduance after the beste fashon.

The Coruysers or shooemakers playe.

14 The storye howe to Ierusalem o*u*r sauioure tooke the waye
y*o*w Coruysers that in number full menye be
W*i*th yo*u*r Ierusalem carryage shall sett oute in playe
A co*m*mendable true storye. and worthye of memorye

Collation continued: 1 wor*thie*] worshippfull *R* 2–5m The … mercers playe] wor*shipful*l Mercers *R; B omits* 3 stable] stall *B* 7–10m The … Massons. playe.] The gliteringe goldesmythes and masons playe: *1944;* Goldsmiths *R; B omits* 8 tender] small tender *R;* smalle tender *B* 8 babes] babes beinge *B* 9 Beinge] *B omits* 9 Age] Age a most blasfemus thynge *B* 11 yea] *R omits* 12–13m The … Smythes playe/] smiths *R; B omits* 13 yo*u*r playe] in playe *R B* 14 fflute] [flute] harpe *B* 17–18m The Butchers. playe] The stoute Butchers playe *1944;* Buchers *R; B omits* 18 vsed] *R omits* 19 Rugged] ragged *1944 B;* Ragger *R* 22–4m The … glouers. play.] Glouers *R; B omits* 23 Pageon] pageantes *1944* 26 howe] howe that *R* 27–9m The … shooemakers playe.] Corvisors *R; B omits* 27 full] *R omits* 29 of] *R omits*

The Bakers. playe

15 And howe Criste o*ur* sauioure at his laste supper
Gaue his bodye and bloode for redemtion of us all
y*o*w Bakers see y*a*t with the same wordes you vtter
As Criste himselfe spake them to be a memorall/
Of y*a*t deathe & passion w*i*thin playe after ensue shall
The worste of these storyes doth not fall to yo*ur* parte
Therefore caste god*es* loues abroade w*i*th accustomed cherefull harte

The ffletchars, boyers Cowp*er*s, stringers, and Irnemongers, playe.

16 Y*o*w ffletchares, Boyeres, Cowp*er*s, stringers, & Irnemongers
See soberlye ye make oute Cristes dolefull deathe
his scourginge his whippinge, his bludshede & passion
And all the paynes he suffred till the laste of his breathe
Lording*es* in this storye consistethe oure chefe faithe,
The Ignorance wherein hathe us manye yeares soe blinded
As though now all see the pathe playne
yet the moste parte cannot finde it.

The Cookes, playe.

17 As oure belefe is: y*a*t Christe after his passion
Decended into hell. but what he did in that place
Though oure author sett forthe after his opynion
Yet creditt y*o*w the beste lerned. those he dothe not disgrase
We wishe y*a*t of all sortes the beste you imbrace
Y*o*w koockes with yo*ur* Cariage see y*a*t you doe well
In Pagiante sett oute the harrowinge of hell/ |

The Skynners. play.

18 The Skynners before y*o*w after shall playe
The storye of the Resurrection
How Criste from deathe arose the thirde daye
Not altered in menye poyntes from the olde fashion

19 The Sadlers and ffrysers shoulde in theire Pagiante declare

Collation continued: 2–3m The Bakers. playe] The p*ro*ffitable Bakeres playe *1944;* Bakers *R; B omits* 2 bloode] his blood *1944 R* 3 with] *B omits* 6 these storyes] this storye *B* 6 doth] doe *1944 R* 7 accustomed] A *R* 9 Irnemongers] Iremong*ers* altogether *B* 10–14m The … Irnemongers, playe.] fflechers Bowyers Coopers Stringers Iron mongers *R; B omits* 10 oute] of *R B* 14–16 The Ignorance … finde it.] *R omits* 14 manye yeares soe blinded] soe many yeres blynded *1944 B* 15 now] *1944 omits* 18 y*a*t] *1944 omits* 19–20m The Cookes, playe.] cookes *R; B omits* 22 you] you may *1944* 26–7m The Skynners. play.] skinners *R; B omits and makes Skinners' play verse continuous with Cooks'* 31 ffrysers] ffusterers *R*

The Sadlers and ffrysers playe.

The appearance of Christe his traueyle to Emaus
His often speeche to the woman & his desiples Deere
To make his risinge [to] agayne to all the worlde notoriouse

20 The Taylors. play

Then se *ya*t you Taylors w*i*th Cariage decente
The storye of the assention formallye doe frame
Wherebye *ya*t gloriose bodye in Clowdes moste ardente
Is taken vppto the heauens. with p*er*petuall fame/

21 The ffishmongers playe

This of the oulde & newe testamente to ende all the storye
w*hi*ch oure author meaneth at this tyme to haue in playe,
*yo*w ffishemongers to the Pageante. of the holye goaste well see
That in good order it be donne as hathe bine allwaye/

22 The shermens playe.

And after those ended yet dothe not the Author staye
But by p*ro*phett*es* shewethe forthe howe Antechriste shoulde rise
W*hi*ch *yo*w Shermen see sett out in moste comlye wise.

23 The Diers and hewsters playe.

And then *yo*w Diers & hewsters. Antechriste bringe out
ffirste with his Doctor that godlye maye expownde
Whoe be Antechristes the worlde rownde aboute
And Enocke. and. Helye p*er*sones walkinge on grownde
In partes well sett *yo*w out the wicked to confownde
w*hi*ch beinge vnderstanded Christes worde for to be
Confowndethe all Antechristes and. sectes of *ya*t degree/

24 The weauers. playe the laste of all,

The co*m*mynge of Christe to geue eternall Iudgmente
*yo*w weauers laste of all *you*r parte is to playe
Domesedaye we call it. when the omnipotente
Shall make ende of this worlde by sentance I saye
On his righte hande to stande god grante us *ya*t daye
And to haue *ya*t sweete worde in melodye
Come hither, come hither, venite benediciti |

Collation continued: 1–3m The … ffrysers playe.] sadlers ffusterers *R; B omits* 1 appearance] Appearances *R* 2 woman] women *R B* 2 &] and to *R* 3 agayne] *1944 omits* 6–7m The Taylors. play] Taylours *R; B omits* 6 formallye doe] formerly to *B* 7 ardente] orient *R* 11–13m The ffishmongers playe] ffishmongers *R; B omits* 11 author] aulter *R* 12 the^{1}] that *B* 12 goaste well see] crose will set *B* 15 yet] yt *R* 15 Author] storie *R* 16–17m The shermens playe.] shermen *R; B omits* 17 see] *R omits* 20–1m The … hewsters playe.] diers Hewsters *R; B omits* 23 yow] *B omits* 28–30m The … of all,] The weauers playe. *1944;* wauers *R; B omits* 28 is] is for *R*

The conclusion of banes. he wisheth heauen to the beholders of these playes,

To w*hi*ch reste of Ioyes and Celestiall habitation
Grante us free passage that alltogether wee
Acompanyed with Angells & endles delectation
Maye continuallye lawde god & prayse y*a*t kinge of glorye

Conclusion of the Banes

he wisheth men not to take the sighte of the playe only but to conceaue of the matter so as it mighte be profitable. and not offenciue.

The sume of this storye Lordes & ladies all
I haue breifelye reapeated & how the muste be played
Of one thinge warne you now I shall
That not possible it is these matters to be contryued
In such sorte and cunninge & by suche players of price
As at this daye good players & fine wittes. coulde deuise
ffor then shoulde all those p*er*sones that as godes doe playe
In Clowdes come downe w*i*th voyce and not be seene
ffor noe man can p*ro*portion that godhead I saye
To the shape of man face. nose and eyne
But sethence the face gilte doth disfigure the man y*a*t deme
A Clowdye coueringe of the man. a Voyce onlye to heare
And not god in shape or person to appeare
By Craftes men and meane men these Pageannt*es* are playde
And to Commons & Contrymen accustomablye before
If better men and finer heades now come what canne be sayde
But of common and contrye players take y*o*w the storye
And if anye disdayne then open is the doore
That lett hime in to heare, packe awaye at his pleasure
Oure playeinge is not to gett fame or treasure,

All that with quiett mynde
Can be contented to tarye
Be heere on Whitson mondaye
Then begineth the storye.

finis DR

And thus muche of the Banes or breife of the whitson playes in Chester for if I shoulde heare resite the whole storye of the whitson playes. it woulde be tooe tediose for to resite in this breauarye. As also the beinge nothinge

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Collation continued: 1–5m The conclusion … playes,] *R B omit* 1 Ioyes] wayes *R B* 2 free] all free *B* 6–34 Conclusion … DR] *R omits and has the colophon* Amen ¶ finis deo gracias p*er* me georgium Bellin 1600 6 Conclusion … Banes] *B omits* 13 this daye] these dayes *B* 13 players] preserve *B* 14–34 ffor … DR] *B omits* profitable to anye vse excepte it be to showe the Ignorance of oure forefathers: And to make us theire offpringe vnexcusable before god that haue the true and sincere worde of the gospell of oure lord ⌈and⌉ [and only] sauioure Iesus Christe. if we apprehende not the same in oure liffe and practise to the eternall glorie of oure god the saluation and comforte of | oure owne soles. Heare followeth all the companyes as the were played vpon there seuerall dayes. which was. Mondaye. Tuesedaye, and Wensedaye in the Whitson weeke. And how many Pagiantes weare played vpon euerye daye at the Charge of euerye companye.

	The companye. or trades that playe.		The storye y*at* euerye companye did Acte.
1	Barkers & Tanners	bringe forthe	The fallinge of Lucifer

Collation with BL: Harley MS 1944 *(1944)* ff 25–6v; CCALS: DCC 19 *(DCC)* ff 40v–3; BL: Harley MS 1948 *(1948)* ff 64v–7; Liverpool University Library: MS 23.5 *(L)* ff 26v–7v; BL: Harley MS 2150, Early Banns *(EB)* f 85v; BL: Harley MS 2125, Breiffes of Chester *(2125)* ff 14–15; BL: Additional MS 11335, Antiquitie *(11335)* ff 16–17; BL: Additional MS 29779, Breife Notes *(29779)* ff 8–8v; and CCALS: DLT/B 37 *(B37)* ff 23–4v: 11 companye] Companyes *1944;* Companies *1948* 11–12 or ... playe.] that Ioyned together *DCC;* y*at* broughte out their pagiantes *1948; L EB omit* 11–12 The storye ... Acte] The storye or matter y*at* euery Compa*ny* did acte *1944;* The p*ar*tes that each Company played *DCC;* The p*ar*tes y*at* euerye Companye played *1948;* Now follow, what occupationes, bringe forth at theire charges. the playes of Chester, and on what dayes, theye are played. yearely. these playes weare sett forthe. when the are played, Vpon, monday. tuesdaye and, wensedaye in the whitson weke *L;* These be the craftys of the Citie the whiche craftys bere the charge of the pagyns in play of corpus chr*is*ti *EB to which* RH II *added* [pn] ‸⌈pena⌉ x li. & were the Auntient whitson playes in Chester sett out at the charges of theis occupations yearly playe on munday Tewsday, & wensday in whitson weeke beinge first Invented & putt into English by Rand. Higden a monck of Chester Abby*;* The Ioyninge of all the trades of oulde tyme. as the played the whitson playes. and the partes the playd, one Monday Tusedaye and wensdaye in whitson weeke, as followeth *2125 29779;* The Anchant Whitson playes in Chester were set forth att the charges of these Occupations sett forth and played yearly. on Munday Tuesday and Wednesday in the Whitson weeke being first Invented, and put into English by Randle Higden a monke in Chester Abbey. *11335;* The Anchant Whitson playes in Chester, weare sett forth at the coste and charges of these occupationes, and played yearly, on Mondaye, Tuesedaye and wenseday, in Whitson weeke beinge firste made and Invented, and put in to English tounge, by one Randall Higden a moncke of Chester Abbey, in A*nn*o d*omi*ni 1269. The Companyes, as they then Ioyned and the partes that they played, at theire owne costes, here followe *B37* 14m 1] *EB omits this and all subsequent verse numbers* 14 &] or *EB*

2/ offpringe: *for* offspringe

2	Drapers & Hosiers	The Creation of the worlde
3	Drawers in Dee & Waterleaders	Noah and his Shipp
4	Barbers Waxechandlers Leeches	Abraham and Isacke.
5	Cappers Wyerdrawers Pynners	kinge Balack & Balaam with Moyses.
6	Wrightes Sclaters Tylers Daubers Thatchares	Natiuytie of oure Lord
7	Paynters Imbrotherers Glasiores	The Shep*er*des Offeringe |
8	Vinteners Marchantes	kinge. Herod and the mounte victoriall,
9	Mercers Spicers	bringe forthe the three kinges of Colin.

These .9. Pageantes aboue written weare played vppon the firste daye. beinge. Mondaye.

Collation continued: 4 in] of *1948 L EB 2125 11335 29779 B37* 4 Noah] Noy *1948 EB 2125 29779 B37;* Noe *L* 8 Abraham] Abram *1948 EB* 9 Leeches] *above which* RH II *added to EB* or Surgoins*; 2125 29779 omit* 22 Imbrotherers] Brotherers *1948 L EB 11335 B37;* bruderers *2125 29779* 25 Herod] Harrald *1944;* herolde *2125 29779* 28 bringe forthe] *L EB 2125 11335 29779 B37 omit* 28 Colin] *above which* RH II *added to EB* Colen 31 Pageantes] playes *EB, above which* RH II *added* and pagents 31 aboue written] *2125 omits* 31 weare] be *L EB B37* 32 beinge. Mondaye.] *L EB 2125 11335 B37 omit;* beinge monday in whitson weeke *DCC 1948*

1	Gouldsmythes Massons	The Destroyeinge of the chilldren by Herod./
2	Smithes forbers Pewterers	Purification of oure Ladye
3	Butchares	The Pinackle w*ith* the woman of Canan./
4	Glouers and Parchmente makers	The risinge of Lazarus from death to liffe./
5	Coruesters or Shooemakers	The comeinge of Christe to Ierusalem./
6	Bakers Mylners	Christes maundy w*ith* his Desiples./
7	Boyers ffletchares Stringers Cowpers Turners	The scourginge of Christe
8	Irnemongers Ropers	The Crusifieinge of Christe
9	Cookes Tapsters Hostlers Inkeapers	The harrowinge of hell. |

Collation continued: 1 Destroyeinge] slayeinge *DCC 1948 L EB 2125 11335 29779 B37* 2 Massons] & masons *EB, above which RH II added* or cutters 2 by Herod] of Isarell *EB, above which RH II added* by Herod; by herolde *2125 29779* 5–6 forbers Pewterers] ffurbarers & pewters *EB, below which RH II added* furbisher 9 Canan.] canany *EB B37;* Canay *11335;* Canahan *29779* 11 Lazarus] Lasare *EB;* Lawzerous *B37* 11 from death] *2125 omits* 14–15 or Shooemakers] *EB omits, but RH II added* or showmakers 15 w*ith* his Desiples] where he sat w*ith* his Appostls *EB* 26 Christe] god *EB, deleted by RH II above which he added* Christ 32 Inkeapers] *EB omits, but RH II added* Inkeepers

These .9. Pageantes aboue written weare played vppon the second daye. beinge tuesedaye.

1	Skinners Cardemakers Hatters. Poynters Gyrdlers	The Resurrection
2	Sadlers fusters	The Castell of Emaus and the Apostles.
3	Taylors	The Ascention of Christe
4	ffishemongers	Whitsondaye the makeinge of the Creede./
5	Shermen	p*ro*phetes before ye day of Dome
6	Hewsters Bellfownders	Antechriste
7	Weauers Walkers	Domes daye

These .vij. Pageant*es* weare played vpon the third daye beinge wensedaye and these whitson playes weare played in Chester a*nn*o d*omi*ni .1574. S*i*r Iohn Sauage knighte beinge mayor of Chester. w*hi*ch was the laste tyme that the

Collation continued: 1 Pageantes] playes *EB, above which* RH II *added* or pagents 1 weare] be *L EB B37* 1–2 played … tuesedaye.] playd one Tusedaye the .2. daye *2125 29779;* played on the seconde day *B37* 2 beinge tuesedaye] beinge Tueseday in whitson weeke *DCC 1948 L; EB 11335 omit* 6 Resurrection] Resurection of Christe *2125* 10 Emaus] Amyas *EB, above which* RH II *added* Emaus 15 ffishemongers] ffle[x]sshemongers *EB* 17 before] afore *1948 L EB;* affore *B37* 25 These … wensedaye] These seauen pagiantes weare played on the third day beinge wenseday in whitson weeke: *1948;* These .7. pagiantes aboue written weare played vpon the 3d day beinge wenseday in whitson weeke *L;* plaid Appon the third *EB;* These vpon wensdaye the 3. daye *2125 29779;* The Seaven pagiantes were played on the third day. *11335; for the continuation in DCC and 1948, see pp 441–2,* CCALS: *DCC 19, ff 39v–40, and pp 485–6,* BL: *Harley* MS *1948, f 67* 25 beinge wensedaye] *B37 omits* 26 Chester] *L omits* 27 that] *1944 L omit* weare played. And we haue all cause to power out oure prayers before god that neither wee. nor oure posterities after us. maye neuar see the like Abomination of Desolation, with suche a Clowde of Ignorance to defile with so highe a hand. the moste sacred scriptures of god. but oh the merscie of oure god. for the tyme of oure Ignorance he regardes it not [As well in euerye mans p*ar*ticular corse as also in general corses] And thus muche in breife of these whitson playes.

Of the midsomer showe or watch in Chester.

manye thinges reformed in the midsomer showe. by mr H Hardware sometymes maior of Chester. As the Diuell Ridinge in fethers before the butchars. A man in womans apparell w*i*th a diuel waytinge on his horse called cappes & canes. w*i*th other thinges w*hi*ch weare Reformed & amended/ †

Heare we maye note that the showe or watche. on midsomer eaue called midsom*m*er showe. yearelye now vsed within the Cittie of Chester. was vsed in the tyme of those whitson playes. and before so farre as I canne Vnderstande | Vnderstande for when the whitson playes weare played. then the showe at midsomer wente not. And when the whitson playes weare not played. then the midsomer showe wente onlye: As manye now liueinge canne make theire owne knowledge proofe sufficiente: But since these playes at whitsontyde weare put downe And the midsomer showe wente onlye. there hath binne taken awaye some thinges and reformed that weare not decente: wherein the wisedome and godlye care of those Magistrates that did remoue awaye thinges either sinfull or offensiue. is to be com*m*ended. and by all Religeose magistrates there steepes to be troden in In as muche as the Intende all theire actions to god*es* glorie and the rule or liue of *per*fection. the which howsoeuar it cannot be atayned vnto in this liffe. yet it is the marke that we are all to aime at. In the which I com*m*end the gouernemente of mr Hen[dware] Hardware esq*uire* sometymes mayor of

The midsomer ‸⌜show⌝ as antiant as the whitson playes. if not more antiant

when the midsomer showe wente then the whitson playes wente not.

when the whitson playe wente then the showe at midsomer wente not/

Collation continued: 1–7 And we … playes] and we may praise god, and praye y*a*t we see not the like p*ro*clamation of holy scripture, but o the mercie of god for the time of our Ignorance god he regardes it not, as well in euerie mans p*ar*ticular, as also in general causes *L* 4 moste] *1944 omits* 5–6 [As … corses]] *1944 omits* 7 these] ye *1944*

Collation with BL: Harley MS 1944 *(1944)* f 26v: 11–12 by mr … Chester.] before mr H: Hardware & in his tyme, *1944* 12 in] in his *1944* 14 canes.] cans god in stringes, *1944* 30 that] *1944 omits* 31 Hen] Henry *1944*

19/ Vnderstande | Vnderstande: *dittography*
22m/ antiant: *1 minim for first* n *in* MS
31/ Hen[dware]: Hen *corrected from* Har; d *not clearly cancelled*

Chester whose gouernemente was godlye, wherein he soughte the redresse of manye abuses as namelye in the midsomer showe he caused somethinges to be reformed and taken awaye. that the watchmen of oure soules ‸⸢or Deuines⸣ spake againste as thinges not fitt to be vsed. for the which he deserued Iuste co*m*mendation. howsoeuar the vulgar [or baser sorte] of people did oppose themselues againste the reformation of si*n*nes not knoweinge that Antiante sinnes oughte to haue new Reformation. And antiquitye in thinges vnlawfull or ofensiue is not reson to mantayne the same: But for the Decensie of the midsomer showe as it is now yearely vsed. I referre it to the Iudgmente of those whoe are more Iuditiouse

Now of the Sheriffes breakefaste
w*hi*ch the shoote for yearely. vpon Mondaye in ester weeke

The Shereffes breakefaste is an antiante custome. the Reson thereof none knoweth

Now conser*n*inge the Custome tyme oute of the memorye of man noe man now liueinge canne remembar the origenall of the same. The Shereffes of the Cittie of Chester doe yearelye vpon mondaye in ester weeke. commonlye called [Blatke] Blake mondaye vpon the Roode Dee before the mayor and the Aldermen of the same Cittie. doe shoote for a breakefaste of Calues heades and Bacon. commonlye called the Shereffes breakefaste. The Maior and the aldermen with all other Gent*lemen*. yeomen. or goodfellowes takeinge parte withe the one shereffe or with the other. And when the haue ended the game. the Shereffe. that is a winner. He goethe vp firste ‸⸢through ye streete to ye co*m*mon hall⸣ and all on his side that be winners withe arrowes in theire handes. The loosers side followinge after with bowes in theire handes. to the hall of the same Cittie where | the take parte alltogether of the same breakefaste or Dynner the loasers payeinge. 4 d. apeice. and the winners side ij d. apeice towardes the Charges of the saide breakefaste: The which Custome beinge there yearelye vsed the tyme beinge, very seasonable the practise and game lawefull. The ende thereof beinge the comforte societye and refresheinge of the Cittisens. So farre as I conseaue it deseruethe not onlye continuance but also co*m*mendation/

…

Collation continued: 5 vulgar [or baser sorte]] vulgar sorte *1944* 13 yearely] *1944 omits* 19 breakefaste] breakfast or dinner *1944* 21 yeomen.] *1944 omits* 22m custome.] custom, and laudable *1944* 23 firste] *1944 omits* 24 that be winners] *1944 omits* 25–6 to … Cittie] to ye saide hall *1944*

21m/ antiante: *1 minim for first* n *in* MS

f 105

mayor*es* watch …There came with William the Conqueror 4 britheren, videlicet, 1 Neele lord of Halton. Constable of Cheshire, 2 Hadarde Lord of Dutton Marshall of Cheshire, 3 Edward Lord of Hawerden stuarde of Cheshire, 4 Hebard Lord of Do*n*nham Chamberlaine of Cheshire, To all these it should seeme the Conquerowre gaue landes, to ayde and to defende and to serue this Cittie [if] vpon anye occasion as neede shoulde require, But nowe the same landes giuen to this vse afore spoken, are at this daye come to the possessiones of the Earles of Oxenford and Derbye, mr Porte mr Talbot and diuers others, whoe yearely by theire deputies, doe theire seruises at the Mayres watch courte and there be called [ti] to serue in respecte of the tenure of the same landes, … In the time of the firste maior of Chester whoe is thoughte to be S*ir* Iohn Arnewaye the Whitson playes weare made by a Monke of Chester, and was by the saide maior published and sett out at the charges of euery company with theire pagiantes as is afore expressed, And the said monke Rondulph whoe did make the saide playes lyeth buried in the marchantes Ile [of] within the Cathedrall Church of Chester.

1609

Proclamation Regarding the St George's Day Race CCALS: DCC 15/9
single sheet–single sheet verso

The Aldermen and Stewards of euery Society and Company draw yo*u*r selues to yo*u*r said seuerall Companies according to ancient custome And soe to appeare euery man with y⟨..⟩r said [Companies] seuerall Companies every man as you are called vpon paine that shall fall thereon⟨.⟩

1. The Aldermen and Stewards of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Tanners Come forth with yo*u*r Shewes according to ancient Custome
2. The Master and Wardens of the Society and Company of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Marchant dr⟨…⟩ and hosiers ⟨..⟩
3. The Masters Aldermen and wardens of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Beerebrewers Waterleaders and drawers in dee
4. The Aldermen and Stewards of the Barbor Chirurgions and Tallow Chandlers

Collation continued: 3–13 There came … landes,] *for DCC variant version see pp 440–1, CCALS: DCC 19, f 39* 16–18 And … Chester] *for DCC variant version see p 442, CCALS: DCC 19, ff 112v–13*

4/ Constable of Cheshire: *underlined*
4–5 Marshall of Cheshire: *underlined*
5/ stuarde of Cheshire: *underlined*
6/ Chamberlaine of Cheshire: *underlined*
11–13/ whoe yearely … the same landes: *underlined*

5. The Aldermen and Stewards of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Cappers Pinners Wire drawers Linnen drapers and Bricklayers
6. The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Capenters & Slaters
7 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Ioyners Caruers & Turners
8. The Aldermen and Stewards of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Painters Glasiers Embroiderers and Stationers
9 The Aldermen and [Company] Stewards of the Company of Goldsmithes and Clockmakers
10. The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Smithes Cutlers Pewterers Cardmakers and Plummers
11. The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Butchers
12. The Aldermen and Stewards of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Glouers
13. The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Cordwayners
14 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Bakers
15 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of ffletchers Bowyers Coop*ers* &
16 The Aldermen and Stewards of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Mercers
17 The Aldermen and Stewards of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Ironmongers
18 The Aldermen and Stewards of Cookes Inholders and victuallers
19 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Society and wor*shipfu*ll Company of Skinners and ffeltmakers
20 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Sadlers
21 The Aldermen and Stewards of the company of Taylors
22 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of ffishmongers
23. The Aldermen of the Company of Clothworkers & Walkers
24 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of dyers & hewsters
25 The Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Weauers
26 The [Aldermen] Master and Wardens of the wor*shipfu*ll Company of Merchant*es* and Marriners. |

The proclamation on the Roody vpon St Geor⟨..⟩s day A*nn*o °1609°

The right wor*shipfu*ll the Maior of the Cittie of Chester willeth and require⟨..⟩ and in his Ma*ie*sties name straitly chargeth and com*m*andeth all and euery person and persons that are here assembled or that s⟨.⟩all assemble to s⟨..⟩ this ancient race That they and euery of them doe obserue and keepe the peace a⟨.⟩d bee of good behauiour And that they take fitting and convenient places for theire owne safetie to avoid the danger of the horses in the course, and that they doe not hinder or interrupt them therein And that all horses except such as doe runne the said race doe avoid the ground vntill the race bee ended vpon paine and perrill that may ensue./

3/ Capenters: *for* Carpenters

c 1609

Articles of the St George's Day Race CCALS: DCC 47/3
ff [1–1v]

Articles to be p*er*formed for Certayne orders touchinge the runinge
of a race for two belles and lykewyse for a Cupp to be runne
for at the ringe vpon St George his day beinge the three
and twentieth day of Aprill As foloweth/

1 ffirste it is agreede that the race for the belles and runinge at the ringe for the Cupp shall be houlden and kepte vpon St George his day, excepte it fall out to light either vpon saturday or Saboth day Then they shalbe runne for vpon Monday nexte folowinge and the Warninge by the Drumme and Cryer shalbe vpon saturday or the day nexte St George [his] day not beinge the Saboth

2 Secondlie euery man that bringeth in his horsse for the race shall putt in for to runne for the bells xx s., excepte him that bringeth in the beste bell w*hi*ch shall pay but vj s. viij d., and he that bringeth in the second bell xiij s. iiij d. And he that Wynneth the beste bell shall haue two partes of the money that is layd downe And he that Wynneth the second bell shall haue the third parte W*hi*ch is the residue of the money w*hi*ch is putt in And euery one that rydeth shall way or be made in Waight iuste tenne stonne Waight And to be wayed vpon the Roodey in a payre of scales w*hi*ch shalbe sett vpp neere vnto the house where the Maior and his bretheren standeth

3 Thirdlie euery one that runneth at the ringe for the Cupp shall putt in two shillinges sixe pence a man excepte him that bringeth in the Cupp accordinge to the Coven*a*nte by bond at the tyme appoynted who shall putt nothinge in for three tymes runinge at the ringe And whosoeuer doth take it the firste three tymes, shall haue the vse of the Cupp accordinge to the Coven*a*ntes and soe much money as Was putt in. And if none doe take it the firste three tymes they shall all loose their money that they putt in at the firste, and the said money to be giuen to the Maior for the tyme beinge for the vse of the poore, and prison*er*s of the Northgate And they all or as many of them as please to putt in newe money viz ij s. vj d. euery man as before is menc*io*ned, to haue all the laste money that Was putt in and the vse of the Cupp as afore is expressed Provyded allwayes that he that shall Wynne the game shall giue and pay to the prisoners of the Northgate v s. and to the Clerke for Wrytinge of their names downe ij s. vj d.

4 ffourthlie they that Wynne the bells shall giue to the Prisoners in the Northgate x s. viz he that Wynneth the beste bell shall giue vj s. viij d. and he that Wynneth the second iij s. iiij d. if there runne aboue three horsses, and if the runne but three, they shall allowe but vj s. viij d. onlie to be payd equallie amongeste them

5 ffiftlie he that Wynneth the said belles and Cupp shalbe bounde to the Maior

and Citizens of the Cittie to bringe in the said Belles and Cupp euery Yeare, W*it*h one or two sufficient suerties for the deliuery of the said belles, (of the same Waight and goodnes as they Were, When they receaued them) vpp to the Maior or his Deputie for the tyme beinge vpon St George his day in the Inner Pentice of the said Cittie of Chester before twelue of the Clock at noone vpon the same day beinge the xxiijth of Aprill vpon payne of forfeiture of their bond*es* Alsoe they shall pay to the Clerke when they doe enter into bonde for the makeinge of their bond*es* xij d. for euery bounde

6 Lastelie for givinge of the Start either M*aste*r Sheriff*es* for the tyme beinge, or Whom M*aste*r Maior Will appoynte, And that noe horsses geldinges or Mares shall Come vpon the Roode eye (but onlie those that doe runne) vntill the race be ended: And alsoe that the ryders shall not offer one to an other any foule play in their rydinge vpon payne of Ymprisonm*en*t And these Articles and orders to be kepte and p*er*formed vnviolated vpon payne of punishm*en*t and forfeyture of their boundes and Coven*a*nt*es* as before is sett downe

1609–10

Petition of Robert Amery to the Mayor and Council CCALS: ZAF 8/38
f [2]*

To the right Wor*shipfu*ll William Leicester Maior of the
Cittie of Chester, the Aldermen Sheriff*es* and comen
Councell of the same Cittie

The humble petition of Robert Amerie Iremonger [Shewinge] Late Sheriffe Shewinge/

That the Peticion w*it*h the lykeinge and approbation of diuers iudicious persons w*it*hin this Cittie, for the good of the same, at home, and grace thereof abrode, and for a perpetuall establishm*en*t of a yearelie horsse race & runing at the ringe at the roode eye vpon St George his day by gentlemen of Worshipp and qualitie. The exercize & practize Whereof chieflie tendinge to the seruice of his Ma*ies*tie as occasion shall requyre; and to the ‸⌜present⌝ delight & Comforte of his people, did lately to this Peticion*er*s greate trouble & Charges procure three Bell Cupps of silver to be made, w*it*h other shewes and devyses, for the better settinge forth of the said games to this Peticioners Charge the some of C li. at the leaste

The Peticioner moste humblie besecheth yo*ur* wor*sh*ip*s* in regarde the greateste parte of the said Charge is bestowed vpon thinges extant, w*hi*ch are to remayne to future ages for the good of the said Cittie That yo*ur* wor*sh*ips would be pleased to giue order and directions for an assessm*ent* and Collection of such money as this Peticioner therein hath disbursed, as to y*our* wors*hi*ps shall seeme moste expedient, And he will euer pray to God for y*our* wors*hi*ps prosp*er*itie

°this peticion beinge read throughte not fitt to passe to elecc*i*on & voic*es* at an assemblie/°

Description of Robert Amery's Device for the St George's Day Show

BL: Harley MS 2150
single sheet–single sheet verso

The maner of the showe that is if god spare life & health shalbe seene by all the behoulders vpon St Georges day next being the 23th of Aprill 1610. and the same with more Addytion to Continew being for the kyng*es* crowne & dignitye and the homage to the kyng & prynce with that noble victor St george to bee Continued for euer: God saue the Kynge.

It*em* ij men in greene Evies set with worke vpon their other habet with blacke heare & black beard*es*, very owgly to behould and garlan⌜d⌝ vpon their head*es*. with great Clubs in their hand*es* with fier work*es* to scatter abroad to mantaine way for the rest of the shewe./

It*em* j on horseback with the buckler & headpeece of St George and iij men to guide him with a drum. before him for the honor of Engle Land.

It*em* j on horsebacke called fame with a trumpet in his hand & iij me⟨.⟩ to guide him. & he to make an Oration with his habit in pompe

It*em* j called mercury. to descend from aboue in a cloude his wing*es* and all other matters in pompe. & heauenly Musick with him and after his oration spoken to ryde on horseback with the musicke before him

It*em* j Called Chester with an Oration & drums before him his habit ‸⌜in pompe⌝

It*em* j on horseback with the kynges Armes vpon a shield in pompe

It*em* j on horseback conserninge the king*es* crowne & dignity w*i*th an oratio⟨.⟩ in pompe.

It*em* j on horseback with a bell dedicated to the kynge being double gilt with the kyng*es* Armes vpon/ caried vpon a septer in pompe. and before him a noise of trumpet*es* in pompe

It*em* j on horseback with the princes Armes vpon a shield in pompe

It*em* j on horsback with an Oration for the prynce in pompe

Item j on horseback with the bell dedicated to the princes Ar⟨…⟩ vpon it in pompe & to be caried on a septar. & before the b⟨…⟩ a noyse of trumpett*es*

It*em* j on horseback with the Cup for saint George caried vpon a septar in pompe

It*em* j on horseback with an Oracyon for St George in pompe. |

It*em* St George himselfe on horseback in Complete Armor with his flagg and buckle in pompe & before him a noyse of drums.

It*em* j on horseback called Peace with an Oration in Pompe

It*em* j on horseback Labelled P[ompe] ‸⌜lentye⌝ with an Orac*i*on in pomp

It*em* j on horseback called Envy with an Oration whom loue will Confect. in Pompe.

It*em* j on horsebact called Loue with an Oration to mantaine all in pompe./

It*em* the maior & his brethren at the pentes of this Cittye with their best apparell & in skarlet & all the Orations to be made before him & seene at the high crosse as they passe to the Roodye wherby grent*lemen* shall be Runne for by their horses for the ij bells on a double staff & the Cup to be Run*ne* for at the Rynge in the same place by gennt*lemen* & with a great*er* mater of showe by Armes & shott with more than I can recyte. with a banket after in the Pentis to make welcome the gennt*lemen*. and when all is done then Iudge what you haue seene & soe speake on yo*ur* mynd, as you fynde; The Actor for the p*re*sente.

Robart Amory.

Amor is loue and Amory is his name
that did begin this pompe and princlye game

21/ Labelled: La *corrected over* in

30/ grent*lemen*: *for* gentlemen

32/ at: *corrected over* by

the Charge is great to him that all begun.
[let him be satisfyed now all is done.]
°who now is Sattisfited to see all so well done°

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 49* *(13 October – 12 October)*

...

st georges Race/ St Georges Bells and race of Runinge horses w*i*th other pleasante shewes sett out were Invented by one mr Roberte Amerye Iremonger and some tymes sheriffe & borne in this Cittye, all at his Coste °w*i*th the diall & 2 strikers now at st peters church°

...

A ***Mayors List 10*** BL: Additional MS 29779
f 35 *(13 October–12 October)*

...

°St george Race/° St Georges Bells of Silver, and Race of Runinge horses w*i*th Runinge at the Ringe. and other pleasante showes. Invented by mr Roberte Amerye Iremonger. and some tymes sheriffe of this Cittye and A Cittizin borne/ all these at his Coste: w*i*th the dyall and the two smiters at the Clocke of St peters Church in Chester/

...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 21 *(13 October–12 October)*

...

Mr Roberte Amerye Iremonger. Causd A shoe to be made at the high Crosse. before the maior. by younge ympes who made eich one of them A speech In honour of St georg*e* and after Ahorse Race one the Rode eye. & Aruning at the ring: w*i*th other sportes Comendable:

...

Mayors List 20 JRL: English MS 202
f 57 *(13 October–12 October)*

...

2: This yeare Robert Amery shireiff*es* peere ‸⸢did make⸣ 3: faire cuppes, or belles, to be rune for with horsses, and the thirde to be rune for at the

---

2/ him: *partially amended to* now *before cancellation of line (?)*
3/ who now ... done: *in* RH II*'s hand*
10–11/ w*i*th ... church: *in* RH II*'s hand*
17–18m/ St george Race/: *in* RH II*'s hand*

Ringe vp‸˹o˺ne St Georges day: and soe to continue for euer. w*i*th ma*n*y other showes delectable to ye beholders

…

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/3
p 356 *(25 December–25 March) (Extraordinary expenses)*

…	
Inp*r*imis payd to ye Watchema*n* attendinge the maior & Sheriffes 3 nightes at Christmas & for Armor hyred for y*a*t purpose	ij s. iiij d.
…	

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff 17–17v *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

	…	
	ffirst geuen to Georg Kellie and to his Companie by the Companies appointm*en*t	ij s.
	…	
	geven to Rob*er*t Caly	xij d.
	and to the Wait*es*	xij d.
	…	
midsom*er* accompt*es*	for pruns & suger	xiiij d.
	for stokings & gloves for the Child	ij s. iij d.
	for garters & shoes & strings	[ij s. viiij d.] xx d.
	at the dressinge of the Child a q*u*art of Clarite wyne	viij d.
	at the bankett a ˹galon of˺ [pottle] of Clarit & a quart of sack	iij s. vj d.
	geven to the m*aste*r musitions	v s.
	for beere	˹ij s.˺ [vj s. iiij d.]
	payd for keepinge the Banner	xiij d. |
	payd to ‸˹them˺ that led the hors	viij d.
	payd to him that Caryed the banner	vj d.
	payd to one that tended the Child	vj d.
	[payd for the Lone of a hat	xij d.]
	geven at forgate to the Cryer	iiij d.
	geven at norgat	vj d.
	geven at the Castle	vj d.
	[for Cakes & Cherys	ix d.]
	for bred	xviij d.
	for samont more then the drawers in deee sent	viij d.

27/ vj d.: vj *corrected over other letters*

this l s. given to Mr Am*er*ie toward*es* the race to be p*er*petuallie Contynued vppon St Georges day and toward*es* the Charge of the bells & Cupp &c.†
bestowed vpon mr Robert Amery by the Companie l s.
…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28
f [56v] *(13 January 1609/10–13 January 1610/11) (Disbursements)*
…

‹…›arg	To dossen poynt*es*	ij d.
	for dressinge the stafe	xij d.
	spent at henry Phillipes	iij d.
	gaue to the Cryer at the bares	iij d.
	gaue to Siddall	iij d.
	gaue at the Castell	iiij d.
	gaue at the northgate	vj d.
	gaue to the minstrell*es*	xij d.
	for j quarte sacke	x⌜[ij]⌝ d.
	for bread	iij s. iiij d.
	for j half barrell beare	vij s.
	for Ribininge for the boyes shoes	vj d.
	for the Chese	ij s. viij d.
	for a payre of stockins for the Childe	xvj d.
	for mendinge the iron	iij d.
	for iij li. prunns	viij d.
	for j payre shoues	xviij d.
	for iij payre gloues	xvj d.
	for sinomon	iij d.

…

Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Orders
CCALS: ZG 6/1
f [30v] *(Expenses)*
…

It*em* Layde out for [our] the Rent of metting house	ij s.
It*em* for stokengs for the boye	xvi d.
It*em* for showes for the boye	xx d.
It*em* for gloues for the boye	viij d.
It*em* for dressing of the beast	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* for caring of the beast	xiiij d.
It*em* for musike	xx d.
It*em* for the bankett	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* att the thre yatts	xij d.

It*em* in drenk before the wache	vi d.
the sume is xvi s. viij d.	

...

Cappers', Pinners', Wire-Drawers', and Linen-Drapers' Orders

CCALS: ZG 6/2

f [28v]

...

Memorandum that this yeare the Company weare at greate charges in furnishinge of the Beast beinge all newe trimmed and makinge of anewe banner which stood theim in 4 li. 10 s.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 46 *(11 November–11 November)*

...	
Inprimis payde At our brother Thomas Inces vpon the xiijth daye of november 1609 at an overplushe at our drinkeinge beinge St martens daye	vij s.
Item geven to Roberte kelly the same tyme	ij s.
...	
Item paid for sixe gleeves and berrage to the gouldsmyth	v s. viij d.
...	

ff 46v–7

...	
Item giuen to the waytemen At my Alderman Sales at shroftyde	ij s.
Item paide to the kellyes the same tyme	ij s. vj d.
...	
Item paid to the stewards of the Iorneymen for theire attendance at shroftyde vpon the company	xij d.
...	
Item [spente] paide for Taffyta for the boyes clothes against mydsom*er*	xiiij s.
Item paid for lyning*es* to the same sute	iij s. viij d.
Item spent at Rich*ard* partingtons for the teyler	ij d. |
Item paide for the makinge of the same sute & for sowinge sylke and berrage	iiij s. iiij d.
Item paide for one paiere of stockeing*es*	xx d.

28, 32/ shroftyde: *18–20 February 1609/10*

Item paide for one paier gloves & sylke poynt*es*	xviij d.
...	
Item paide for one paier shooes for the boye and silke Rybyn	ij s.
...	
Item giuen to the Crier at the barres	vj d.
Item giuen at the Castell and Northgate	ij s.
Item giuen to three men w*hi*ch did attend the boye	xviij d.
Item giuen to Roberte kellye	iiij s.
Item paide for [one pottell] five pint*es* seacke at alderman young*es* vpon midsomer even	ij s. j d.
Item giuen to will*ia*m sidall	iiij d.
Item giuen to Iohn Tylston for the lone of ahate for the boye	vj d.
...	
Item spente at an overplushe at Alderman young*es* vpon mydsom*er* even at our drinkinge	xj s. v d.
...	
Item paid vnto mr will*ia*m leycester mayor w*hi*ch the Companye gaue vnto mr Amerye towards his charg*es* one St george daye	xxx s.
...	

f 50 *(Receipts)*

...	
Item received of mr pemburton for his man absence vpon midsomer even fyned in 3 d.	iij d.
Item Richarde frauncis for for the same 3 d.	iij d.
Item Thomas Ryder fyned for the same 3 d.	iij d.
...	

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 39* *(1 July–1 July)*

...	
p*ai*d for afish bestowed vpon the bearebruers	iiij s.
...	

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

f [1v] *(1 August–1 August)* *(Disbursements)*

...	
It*em* paide vnto Mr Holmes for keepinge the banner	xij d.

28/ for for: *dittography*

paid vppon midsomer eue at the settinge forth of our Company at the Watch 1610

It*em* paide for a payre of shooes for the boy to Ryde in	xvj d.
It*em* paide for a paire of stockinges and garters	ij s. iij d.
It*em* paide for Ribon for his shooes	ij d.
It*em* paide for a payre of gloues	vj d.
It*em* paide for the vse of a hatt	xij d.
It*em* spent at Mr Buttons before the watch	vj d.
It*em* spent at Henry Phillips	x d.
It*em* spent vppon the Company after the watch	iiij s.
It*em* paide at the same tyme for a pottle of white wyne	xvj d.
It*em* giuen vnto the Cryer	iiij d.
It*em* giuen vnto the prisoners at the Castle and the Northgate	xij d.
It*em* giuen vnto George Callie for attendinge vppon the Companie vppon midsomer eue	vj s. viij d.
It*em* payde vnto three men that did attend the boy vppon midsomer eue	ij s.

...

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

f [1] *(1 August 1610–1 August 1611) (Disbursements)*

...

Imp*r*imis paid to make vppe the Reconinge for our dinner at Mr Evans house the last Election day	ij s. vj d.
It*em* paid at the same time for wyne and Beere	viij s. viij d.
It*em* giuen vnto George Callie	v s.

...

Mayor's Petition to the Innholders, Cooks, and Victuallers CCALS: ZG 13/46

single sheet *(20 July)*

To the Aldermen and Steward*es* of Cookes Inhoulders and victualers~.

...

Where to the publique grace and p*er*petuall good of this Cittie a late accion hath beene vndertaken by mr Rob*er*te Amerie for a showe and race to be Contynued for euer in this Cittie vpon St George his daie as formerlie hath beene p*er*formed w*hi*ch hath proceeded onlie from the loue of the said Mr Amerie to this Cittie to his greatt Charge amountinge to the some of one hundred pound*es*. or neere therabout*es* as wee are Credebly enformed. Wee therfore toward*es* the satisfaccion of the said mr Amerie his Charge therein doe entreat and require you to Cause yo*u*r Companie to be Called together and to deale effectuallie w*i*th them for some competent som*me* to be given toward*es* the said Charge since it was gen*er*allie intended for the p*ar*ticuler good of eu*er*ie one of vs. And the money soe given by you and yo*ur* Companie to paie ou*er* to vs w*i*thin theise ten daies next Cominge together w*i*th the names and somes of money of all such as are Contributers to this busines Geven vnder o*ur* hand*es* the xx^th^ daie of Iulie 1610

°The sayd Bells & Coope is geuen to the Cittye for eu*er* to be Runned for vpon St George his daye & he or they wh*ic*h gett*es* them or either of them to enter into bond w*i*th securitye to bringe in the sayd bell*es* & Coope to the Maior of the sayd Cittye vpon St George his daye°

(signed) Will*iam* Leicester maior
(signed) Edward Dutton
(signed) William Gamull

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 84v *(25 March 1610–25 March 1611) (Charges)*

	...	
Midsomer euen	Item payd for the boyes hose and shoes	ij s. x d.
	Item for a quarte of sack and suger	xij d.
	Item to the musitians	xvj d.
	Item to the Cryer at the Barres	iiij d.
	Item to the prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
	Item for a pottle of wyne at the Banquett	xvj d.
	Item for Ribbandes	iij d.
	Item to three men for leadinge the horsse	xij d.
	...	
	Item payd for payntinge and trymmynge of the staffe	xij d.
	...	
	Item for wyne at Hughe Inkellit*es* dynner	iij s.
	Item more for Ale	ij s.
	Item to the Musitians	ij s.
	...	
	Item for wyne at Edward Calcott*es* dynner	iij s.
	Item to the Musitians	ij s.
	...	

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 51 *(4 May 1610–4 May 1611) (Charges)*

...

Inprimis paide for the two Children Againste

the watch at Midsomer for ij payer of shooes .2. s. 6 d. & two payer of vsted hose .4 s. some is	vj s. vj d.
more for two payer of gloves & Ryben for them	ij s. iiij d.
more for viij yardes of Tincill Reben	iij s. iiij d.
more for j yarde ½ Reben & Inckle i d.	iij d.
more j yarde halfe of Cobweb Lawne at	j s. viij d.
more for pynnes and ½ yarde Reben	0 v d.
more one payer of garters for the Ladie	0 iiij d.
more geven five men *yat* attended the Children	ij s. iiij d.
more at the barres for beere	xij d.
more to the Crier	0 iiij d.
more to the prisoners	xij d.
paide to two messengers w*hi*ch were sente to borrow thing*es* for the Ladye	ij s. vj d.
more paide for Muzicke	iiij s.
more for beare and wyne	xij s.
paide for one quarter of fustian for the. La*dyes* wire	0 iij d.
paide for prewnes Comfett*es*. suger synemon and Spice for the Cakes	ix s. vj d.
paide for a cage wyre	0 ix d.
paide for Cakes	iiij s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [134v] *(18 October–18 October) (Charges)*

...

Item payd for shewties for the bayes shewes	ij d.
Item payd for showes for the Child at medsomar	xvj d.
Item payd for hosse for him	xiiij d.
Item payd for gloues for him	vj d.
Item payd for our banket vpon medsomer Eue	v s.

...

Item payd at the bares Castell and northgate	xij d.
Item payd for musicke vpon medsomer Eue	xij d.
Item payd for a quart of sacke on medsomer Eue	x d.
It*em* to mr Amery for St george	xx s.

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 9/2
ff [1–2]* *(21 October)*

Taken at Chester before the mayor

...

Rob*er*te Boothe of the Cittie of Chester Carpenter exa*min*ed deposeth & sayth That vppon Tuesdaie last in the eueninge This exa*mina*te was in the house of Iohn Picke and That then there Came vnto the same house one Thomas w*illia*ms noue prisoner in the northgate and his keep*er* Randle Thripp w*i*th him, and That hee heard the said w*illia*ms speake these wordes followinge of mr w*illia*m Gamull late maior of the said Cittie viz. I will Come by mr Gamull w*i*th my hatt vppon my head & on ⟨...⟩ him nothinge, and I will when I am at libertie goe vnto the King*es* ma*ies*tie & Complaine for my wronge imprisonment and moore sayth not

X
signum pro Rob*er*ti Boothe/

Iohn p⟨...⟩ of the said Cittie hatmaker sworne & exa*min*ed deposeth & sayth That vppon Tuesdaie last pasd or thereabout*es* There Came vnto this exa*mina*t*es* house Thomas w*illia*ms menc*i*oned in the former examinac*i*on and his keep*er* Raundl Throppe w*i*th him and That hee heard the said w*illia*ms saie That when hee was at Libertie he [would] ‸⌈Cared not to⌉ burne the gowne hee receaued of mr w*illia*m Gamull the late maior and would goe by him w*i*th his hatt vppon & owe him nothinge and said mr Gamull had done him wronge, and more sayth not/

(signed) Iohn pip⟨...⟩

Randle Throppe thelder sworne & exa*min*ed deposeth & sayth That vppon Tuesdaie or wednesdaie last past this exa*mina*te Thomas williams noue prisoner in the northgate went vnto the house of Iohn Pickeard and That amongest other speeches & Conferenc*es* than posed hee heard the said williams saie hee would burne the gowne w*hi*ch hee receaued of mr W*illia*m Gamull late maior of the said Cittie, and sayd allso That mr w*illia*m Gamull had done him wronge and if hee Could ⟨...⟩ haue redresse hee would Complayne of him vnto the king*es* ma*ies*tie and more sayth not/
X

sign*um* Ranu*lphi* Throppi
William Leicester maior |

7, 19/ Tuesdaie last, Tuesdaie last pasd: *17 October 1609*
15/ X: *Booth's personal mark, resembling a reversed N*
29/ Tuesdaie or wednesdaie last past: *17 or 18 October 1609*
36/ X: *Thropp's personal mark, resembling a +*

Thomas Williams nowe prisoner in the northgate exa*m*i*n*ed sayth That in the time of mr Phillippes maioraltie hee did serue w*i*th the waytemen as the Citties servaunte and played w*i*th them p*ar*te of the same yeare and that the nexte yeare followinge in the time of the maioraltie of S*i*r John Savage knight hee was retained w*i*th the rest of the waytemen to bee the Citties servaunte and receaued his gowne & wages for that yeare And That afterwardes the next yeare in the time of the maioraltie of Mr W*illia*m Gamull hee was by him retained as the Citties servaunte for that [hee served] yeare nexte followinge and ⟨…⟩ had his gowne giuen vnto him by mr Gamull then maior and served vntill Shrouietide after, and did then refuse to serue in his place anie longer w*i*thout either [giuen giuige] giuinge warninge or notice vnto m*aste*r maior of his dep*ar*ture as hee Confesseth, for w*hi*ch his refusall to serue accordinge to his [retinewe] ‸⌈reteinere⌉ hee was then after about midsommer then followinge Committed by the said mr Gamull then maior vnto the northgate of the said Cittie, where hee hath Continued for that hee [he shill] refused to serue as afforesaid and doth still refuse, sayth That [from] ‸⌈duringe⌉ the time of his imprisonmente hee dep*ar*ted from prison w*i*thout licence and laie seuerall nightes duringe the same time [seuerall nightes] at home, and that hee wente to Brettar ‸⌈in the Country of fflinte⌉ to mr Rauenscroftes and stayed there ij daies & one nighte & played in Caisor to ⟨…⟩ & receaued for his musicke v s., sayth further Th⟨..⟩ the weeke before mich*ael*m*a*s w*hi*ch was the assise w⟨..⟩ hee was ⌈vpon requeste of the maior⌉ inlardged of his imprisonment vppon [promesse to serve as hee was retained there ⟨…⟩ the yeare amongest ‸⌈to playe w*i*th⌉ his fellowes waytemen/] ‸⌈hope he wold playe w*i*th his fellowes againe ⟨…⟩⌉ | afterwardes when hee had played w*i*th them [about] ‸⌈for⌉ p*ar*te of the same ⟨…⟩ hee was inlarged hee againe dep*ar*ted from them and refused ⟨…⟩ serue the Cittie anie longer, whereuppon about a ffortnight after for such his refusall hee was againe recommitted vnto the northgate and moore sayth not [sayth] saue anlie That m*aste*r maior was Contented & did offer vnto this exa*mina*te That if hee would plaie one weeke w*i*th the waytemen his fellowes hee should bee dischardged of his imprisonment but hee vtterlie refused soe to doe for that hee Confesseth hee had formerlie made a vowe to the Contrarie neuer to plaie w*i*th them throughe the streete*s* for this yeare as hath beene vsuallie accustomed for them soe to doe/

(signed) William Leicester maior
(signed) Tho*mas* Gamull
(signed) Will*ia*m Aldersey
(signed) Edward Dutton
(signed) Iohn Lytler

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 9/8
ff [1–1v]* *(31 October)*

Taken before the mayor

...

Ales Leeuesley ⟨.⟩ wief of Iohn Leeuesley Sworn and exa*min*ed [⟨...⟩] touching some speeches y*at* were spoken by George Cally deposeth and saith y*at* *the* ‸⌈about⌉ [vpon] ‸⌈Tenn deies afore⌉ the elecc*io*n day the said George Cally and his wief were in the howse of the said Iohn Leuesley and y*at* the said George Cally then said [had] that his brother Rob*er*te Croutched to gett S*ir* Iohn Sauage patches which he would neuer doe, and said y*at* he was [the] Lord of darbys man, and Mr William Gamull then maior had but a weeke to serue ‸⌈and atwitt⌉ in his office, and y*at* after he should be ‸⌈but⌉ maior of Crabball, and y*at* he would play at the howse of one Collins in spite of Mr Gamull and further saith that ‸⌈as well⌉ in the p*re*sence [and] of this deponent, and ‸⌈alsoe in the hearinge of⌉ Henry Hough and his wife and Richard Euans the said Cally [saith said praie] ‸⌈said⌉ y*at* ‸⌈when⌉ mr Leicester should be maior he would nether loue the waite‸⌈men⌉ nor himselfe and more saith not
X

[T] Anne hough sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth and saith y*at* at the same tyme this deponent and her husband Came to the howse of the said Leeuesley and there found the said [Ca] George Cally and his wiefe and then the said Cally said y*at* Mr Gamull had putt him in a paier of boults for Thomas Williams his sake but he shall neuer putt me in [ag] boults againe for he hath but a weeke and a twitt to be, and y*at* he would so end his bloodd with the said williams, and in a scoffinge sorte did putt of his hat and said he would doe him noe more when he [h] should be out of his office and further Saith that the said Cally rayled [upon] ‸⌈towardes⌉ his brother, and said he would neuer incrouch ‸⌈to S*ir* Iohn Sauage⌉ for four patches as his brother did/ and ‸⌈then⌉ clapped his ‸⌈hands⌉ vpon his owne Colysence and said that S*ir* Iohn Sauages Colycence was ‸⌈not to be Comparde⌉ to the Lord of Darbyes, and more saith not
A

Thexa*minacio*n of thomas [willard] hough ‸⌈one of the waite men of the said Citty⌉ Concerninge some speeches vttered against the late Maior of Chester and S*ir* Iohn Savage knight by George Kelly of the said Citty of Chester

---

8/ ‸⌈about⌉ [vpon] ‸⌈Tenn deies afore⌉ the elecc*io*n day: c *3 October 1609*
14/ Crabball: *Crabwall, a hamlet northwest of Chester*
19/ X: *Leeuesley's personal mark*
34/ A: *Hough's initial*

Music*i*on. who beinge sworne and exa*min*ed saith that in the assize weike last this ex*amina*t*e* and the said George Kelly were in the Sheriffe of the shires Court w*i*th there Instruments with intent to haue plaied there att w*hi*ch tyme the said George kelly gaue vnto one Edward Pemberton (being then in Company with the said Kelly) a boxe vpon the eare and vttred these words in great violence to this/ ex*amina*te, sayinge that hee would stabb him the said ex*amina*te and Called him Roague villaine and ^⌈gaue [e]⌉ other indecent speeches as Bastard and such like and furth*er* [saith] ^⌈said⌉ that the maior ^⌊of⌋ | the said City of Chester did giue but a meany of raggs and that S*i*r Iohn Savage gaue a meany patches, and furth*er* this ex*amina*t*e* saith that the said Kelly being Com*m*itted to prison by the said Late Maior said that M*aste*r Maior had punished him with boult*es*, but hee should neu*er* doe the like to him ^⌈would⌉ for that the said Maior had [but] (as the said Kelly said) but one weeke and a twitt to Contineu in the office: and that the said Maior after should bee but a Maior of Crabbwall, and more hee saith not.

(signed) Thomas Hough

Richard Evans of the said City of Chester sworne and exa*min*ed saith that hee did heare the said George Kellie [sai] being in Iohn Leeueslyes house [saie], vtter such like words as the said thomas houghe the p*re* ex*amina*te hath before said or to the like effecte,/ and furth*er* saith that the said Kelly said that his broth*er* did Creepe/· into [the] S*i*r Iohn Savages arse for his patches and furth*er* saith not

signu*m* p*re*di*c*t*i* Ric*ardi* Evans
X

Iohn Everton of the said City of Chester ^⌈music*io*n⌉ beinge sworne and examined saith that *(blank)*

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 9/69
single sheet–single sheet verso* *(30 June)*

Taken before the mayor

...

Iohn Barton of the said Cittie of Chester Tallowchanler exa*min*ed saith That vppon midsommer euen last as this exa*mina*te w*i*th the reste of his Companie & other Companies of the said Cittie were walkinge together through the street*es* havinge before them iij musitione*rs* w*i*th vialls [before them] playinge accordinge to an auncient Custome, there Came ij or iij of mr Duttons men of dutton vnto them and tooke the instrument*es* from the musicke whereuppon

25/ X: *Evans' personal mark, resembling a* +

this exa*mina*te nor anie other of his Companie made noe resistaunce but to p*re*uent anie rumor or contention wente immediatlie & complayned to m*aste*r maior and hee required him this exa*mina*te to wish mr duttons men to redeliuer the instrument*es* vnto the musicke againe, and this exa*mina*t did then goe vnto them and signified vnto them what m*aste*r maior had Commaunded, and that one of the iij whose name this exa*mina*te knoweth not, thrust him w*i*th his hannd uppon the brest, and sayd what should wee talke w*i*th such a skervie boy as this, & did then strike him w*i*th his hannd vppon the face, and inforced thereby his nose to bleed, and did strike him w*i*th a rodd vppon the legg*es*, and this exa*mina*te did then goe towardes him and the man then offered to drawe his sword, and thereuppon other compan⟨..⟩ Came vnto them, but this exa*mina*te sayth hee did neither haundle his ⟨.⟩ sword or by anie meanes ‸⌜did⌝ breake the same, neither knoweth who did it, and moore sayth not

(signed) Iohn Barton

W*illia*m Weston of the said Cittie glouer exa*min*ed sayth hee sawe one of mr duttons men whose name hee knoweth not the daie and time afforesaid strike the former exa*mina*t vppone the legg*es* w*i*th a rodd, and hee then goinge towardes him that stroke him, hee offered to drawe his sword but by companie then Comminge vnto them hee was p*re*uented but sayth that the said Barton did offer noe violence vnto the saide mr Duttons man for the same, nor did breake or handle the sword of the said man neither doth this exa*mina*t knowe or did see whoe did breake the same and moore sayth not

W
W*illia*m Weston

Iohn Tillston of the said Cittie glou*er* and henrie darwall of the same Cittie glouer exa*min*ed sayth in all thinges as the last exa*mina*te weston hath sayd & moore sayth not

(signed) Iohn Tilstonn
X
signum p*re*d*icti* Rogeri Darwall

William Leicester maior |

(3 July)
Thomas ffletcher of the said Cittie shooemaker exa*min*ed sayth That vppon midsommer euen last ‸⌜as⌝ hee w*i*th the rest of his Companie was walkinge through the street*es* hee heard Richard Barlowe one of the said Companie

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25/ W: *Weston's initial*
32/ X: *Darwall's personal mark*
33/ Rogeri: *for* Henri *(?)*

and a Constable w*i*thin the said Cittie Call for aid & asistance and this exa*minat*e then Comminge vnto him, hee sawe a man of mr Duttons of Dutton havinge a dagger in his hannd and this exa*minat*e sayth hee thrust him w*i*th his hannd from the Companie there, but sayth That hee knoweth not what p*ar*te of his bodie hee touched him w*i*th his hannd, but thinketh it was about the head & denyeth that hee this exa*minat*e offered anie violence vnto him but onelie intended to make peace, but neither did breake or handle his sword or knoweth whoe did breake the same, but immediatlie dep*ar*ted & went forward through the street*es* with his Companie and moore sayth not./

X

signum pr*edicti* Thome ffletch*er*

William Leicester maior

1610–11

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

f 312 *(20 June)*

…

°An order touchinge the alteration of the showe or watch at Mydsommer°

Att which Assemblie the faire at midsommer neere approchinge vppon the eue Whereof it hath beene vsuallie accustomed w*i*thin this Cittie That ashewe or Watche should bee by the maior & Citizens p*er*formed & kepte whereupon it was then & there proposed by m*aste*r Maior whether the said shewe were fitt to goe vppon the Saterdaie althoughe the faire then fell out to bee vppon the Sundaie w*hi*ch beinge then propounded it was Conceaued by manie in the same assemblie y*a*t it Would greatlie extend to the prophanitie of the sabboth W*hi*ch Cause beinge referred to voich it was by the most then pr*e*sente thought fitt that the said Watche or shewe should not bee p*er*formed vppon the Saterdaie in respecte it had beene for manie yeares last past still p*er*formed vppon midsommer Eve, by reason whereof it seemed distastfull vnto manie to alter that time or daie,/.

…

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/26

mb [3] *(12 October–11 October)*

…	
p*ai*d to him more for being captaine at midsom*er*	vj s. viij d.
…	
p*ai*d to the steward*es* of the paintors for the gyaunt*es* at midsomer	xliij s. iiij d.
p*ai*d for Carrying the Citties Cullers at midsom*er*	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for Carrying the Drume	xij d.

10/ X: *Fletcher's personal mark, resembling an M*

35/ him: *the yeomen of the Pentice*

p*ai*d to the steward*es* of the sadlers for the bell
at shroftid vj s. viij d.

...

AC **_City Treasurers' Accounts_** BL: Harley MS 2158
f 80* *(12 October–11 October)*

...

giuen Shermadyne for baytinge the beares at
high Crosse x s.

...

payd the Stewarts of the Drapers accustomed
at Shroftyde ij s.

...

payd for wine for the Calues head feast iij li. viij s.

...

for paynting the Giantes & hobby horses
at mydsomer xliij s. 4 d.

...

AC **_Mayors List 5_** BL: Harley MS 2125
ff 49–9v *(12 October–11 October)*

...

...Alsoe mydsomer even fell vpon the | Sonndaye, and he Caused the watch to be sett out vpon the saterdaye before/

...

AC **_Mayors List 7_** BL: Harley MS 2133
f 47 *(12 October–11 October)*

...

Midsomer Eue being on the Sonday M*aste*r Maior Caused the watch to be sett forth the day before Allthough that some were vnwillinge thereof.

...

Mayors List 11 BL: Additional MS 29780
f 156* *(12 October–11 October)*

...

This *yea*r middsummer Even being upon a Sunday the Watch was ridden upon ye saterday for the Eve and ye fair upon the munday...

...

2, 12/ shroftid, Shroftyde: *3–5 February 1610/11*

23/ he: *ie, the mayor, Thomas Harvey*

24, 31, 38/ the saterdaye before, the day before, ye saterday: *22 June 1611*

38/ the munday: *24 June 1611*

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542
f [38] *(12 October–11 October)*

...

This yeare mydsom*er* Even beinge vpon the Saboth daye the Wache was Rydden vpon the saturdaye for the Eave ⌊°& the fayre vpon mundaye & no shopp or bothe opened one the fridaye°⌋ And mych*aelmas* daye beinge the Sabothe daye, the fayre was kept vpon the mondaye/

...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 21v *(12 October–11 October)*

...

This yeare Midsomer even. being one the Sonnday the watch was Ridden vpon the. Saterday.

...

AC ***Mayors List 14*** CCALS: DLE 85
f [30] *(12 October–11 October)*

...

this yeare midsom*m*er euen beinge one ye saboth day, ye wache was rydden on ye satterday for y eaue, & mychels day beinge on sounday the fayre kept one ye munday;

...

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff 20v–1 *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

...

	p*ai*d for wine at o*u*r dinner had from mr Gamulls as ⟨.⟩ not appeareth	viij s. vj d.
	p*ai*d more for wine at mr Buttons	vj s.
	p*ai*d for musicke to George Callie	iij s. iiij d.
	p*ai*d to Robert Callie	ij s. vj d.
	p*ai*d to the Waites	xviij d.

...

midsom*er* accompt*es*	paid for a payer of stocking*es* for the Child	ij s. vj d.
	p*ai*d for a paier of shoes for him	xv d.
	p*ai*d for gloues	viij d.
	p*ai*d for wine and suger at dressing the Child	ij s.

5, 14, 21/ saturdaye, Saterday, ye satterday: *22 June 1611*
5–6/ & the fayre ... fridaye: *in different ink*
5/ mundaye: *24 June 1611*
6/ fridaye: *21 June 1611*
7, 22/ mondaye, ye munday: *30 September 1611*
21/ y: *for ye; superlinear e omitted*
29/ as: s *corrected over another letter*

spent in p*ro*curing a cheine and other Iewells for the Child	xij d. |
p*ai*d to mr holmes for keping o*u*r banner	xij d.
p*ai*d.to the cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the northgate	vj d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the Castell	vj d.
…	
p*ai*d for bread & chese at the banckett	iiij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for strong beare	iij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for prunes & suger	xiiij d.
p*ai*d for a gallone of wine	ij s. viij d.
geuen to ij^{o} footemen to tend the Child	xvj d.
geuen to one that lead the horse	vj d.
p*ai*d for musick vpon midsomer even	v s.
p*ai*d for Salmon more then the Companie of drawers in dee did allowe	ij s. viij d.
…	

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/28

f [59v] *(13 January 1610/11–13 January 1611/12) (Disbursements)*

	…	
the 5th of August being the king*es* day	ffirst for wine	ij s. x d.
	geuen to the musicion*er*s	ij s.
2^{o} die Septe*m*b*er* 1611	spent at Raph Cowp*er*s dinner in Wine	ij s. x d.
	on musick	ij s. vj d.
	…	

f [60]

	…	
Midsom*er* Accompt*es*	ffirst paid for a payer of shoes for the child	xvj d.
	p*ai*d for prunes	viij d.
	p*ai*d for a payer of gloues	viij d.
	p*ai*d for Riboning	vj d.
	p*ai*d for a payer of stocking*es*	xvj d.
	p*ai*d for horsebread	viij d.
	p*ai*d for Cheese	ij s. viij d.
	p*ai*d for alle at the barres	viij d.
	p*ai*d to the Cryer	ij d.
	p*ai*d at the Castell	iiij d.
	p*ai*d at the northgatte	vj d.
	p*ai*d to the Minstrells	viij d.
	p*ai*d for half a barr*el* of beare	v s.

p*ai*d for bread	iiij s. iiij d.
p*ai*d for Sinomon	iij d.
p*ai*d for mending the Iron staffe	iij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 52 *(11 November–11 November) (Payments)*

...

Inprimis paide for wine at our dynner at Thomas Whittles house vpon St m*ar*tens daie beinge the 13th November 1610	xviij d.
Item Geven to Roberte kelly and his Companye for musicke at the same dynner	ij s. vj d.

...

f 52v

...

Item paide for our gleaves & berrage	vj s. iiij d.
Item paide at An overplushe at our Alderman Inces howse at Shrovetyde	xviij d.
Item paide to the waytemen	ij s.
Item paide to the kellyes	ij s.
Item paide to the Iorneymen for theire paines	xij d.

...

f 53

...

Item paide for gloves and poyntes	xij d.
Item spente aboute the boye	vj d.
Item for goeinge into the Cuntrie to borow Acheane	vj d.
Item for one paier shooes & stockings for the boye	ij s. viij d.
Item for sylke Rybyn	xvj d.
Item spente At harrye phillippes at the barres	xv d.
Item giuen to Woodcoke the Crier	vj d.
Item giuen to Will*ia*m siddall	iiij d.
Item giuen to the Castell & Northgate	ij s.
Item giuen to the three men for Attendinge our boye & horse	xviij d.
Item paide Roberte Kellye for his musicke	iiij s.
Item paide for starchinge the boyes bande	iij d.

20/ Shrovetyde: *3–5 February 1610/11*

Item paide for wine ij s. ij d.
Item paide at an overplushe vpon midsomer even
vpon our bankett at Alderman Inces ix s.
…
Item more for one potter Clarett wine at Alderm*an*
Inces when Robert Ienson Came to ye Companye xij d.
Item more paid vnto Rob*er*t kellye at the same tyme ij s.
…

f 53v
…
Item giuen to the prisoners in the Castell ij d.
…

f 55v (*Receipts*)
…
Received of Will*ia*m Croughton for not furnishing
his man vpon midsom*mer* even Accordingly 6 s. vj d.
…
4 Iuly 1611 Received of mr pemburton for wantinge his harnesse
man vpon midsom*er* even 6 d.
…

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1
p 40 (*July–July*)
…
geuen to mr Amery ⟨…⟩ m*aste*r maiors request by the
Companie of drawers in dee the some of x s.
…

p 41*
…
paid for a fish geuen to the bearebruers vpon
midsomer even iiij s.
®geuen back viij d. geuen more to the bearebruers vj s. viij d.
…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42
f [1v] (*1 August–1 August*) (*Disbursements*)
…
It*em* paid to make vppe the Reconinge at Richard Primatts
the xxix^th^ of Aprill ⟨…⟩

It*em* paid for Musicke the same time	〈…〉
…	
It*em* paid for a paire of stockings and garters for the boy w*hi*ch was for our Companie vppon Midsomer	〈…〉
It*em* paid for shooes and shooties	〈…〉
It*em* paid for a paire of gloues for him	〈…〉
It*em* paid for the vse of a hatt	〈…〉
It*em* spente in beere	〈…〉
It*em* giuen to the prisoners at the northgate and castle	〈…〉
It*em* giuen to the Crier	〈…〉
It*em* giuen to a poore man	〈…〉
It*em* spent at Richard Iohnsons	〈…〉
It*em* paid vnto George Callie for his paines	〈…〉
It*em* paid vnto three p*er*sons w*hi*ch did attend the boy	〈…〉
It*em* spente vppon the Companie after the Watch	〈…〉
It*em* for ij^{o} pottles of wyne	〈…〉
It*em* for keepinge the banner	xij〈…〉
It*em* for mendinge the Iron rodd of the banner	iiij〈…〉
…	

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 86 *(25 March 1611–25 March 1612) (Charges)*

…	
It*em* paied for the boies hoose y*a*t did Ride vppon midsomer Eve	xviij d.
It*em* for his shoes	xvj d.
It*em* for Ribins for his shoes	iiij d.
It*em* for Ribins for the horse heade	vj d.
It*em* to the prisoners of the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
It*em* to the Crier at ye bares	iiij d.
It*em* for the hier of a hatt	vj d.
It*em* paied to the Musitions	ij s.
It*em* for a quarte of wyne and sugar at our banquet	viij d.
It*em* for a quarte of wyne & suger at the dressinge of the boie	viij d.
It*em* to three men for leadinge the horse	xij d.
It*em* to William Sidall	ij d.
It*em* spent w*ith*out barres	iiij d.
…	
Item paied to the musitions	ij s.
…	

It*em* paied for paintinge the staffe	xiij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [136]* *(18 October–18 October)* *(Disbursements)*

…

It*em* payd at Thomas shevingtons dyn*n*er for wyne	iij s.
It*em* for musike and given to the Cooke	iiij s. iiij d.

…

It*em* for silvering the Childs Clothes	ij s.
It*em* for those shooes and gloves to the Child	ij s. vij d.
It*em* given at the barrs Castle and northgat	xij d.
It*em* for musike on mydsomer eve	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for our drinkinge one mydsomer eve	vij s.
It*em* this yeare to Thomas gillam	vj s. viij d.

…

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book

CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 55 *(4 May 1611–7 May 1612)* *(Ordinary charges)*

…

paide the 19 Iune for two payer of hoose for ye Children	ij s. viij d.
paide for two payer of gloves for them	j s. iiij d.

…

paide for one yarde & 6 d. Reben for the childe	0 ix d.
paide for Comfett*es* j li. ½ sugar j li. ½ Sinemond 2 oz. codling*es* 6 d.	xj viij d.
paide for ½ li. suckett and princebiskie	j s. viij d.
paide for vij li. prewnes at	j s. ix d.
paide for 2 Cd. walnvtt*es* at	j s. iij d.
paide for wyne and beere	xij s. 00
paide at the barres for beare	j s.
paide the Cryer	iiij d.
Given the prisoners	j s.
paide to Thomas werall that followed the boye	0 vj d.
Geven the swordbearer and macebearer for theire feaning*es* at Midsummer 1611	ii s.
paide for Cakes and spice	iiij s. 0
paide for Musicke	v s. iij d.
paide for ij yardes of Reben	iiij d.

1611–12

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 316 *(17 April)*

. . .

°The games and recreations on Stt George his day to haue contynuance by the onelie direction of the maior and cittizens°

Allso at the same Assemblie it is thought fitt and soe ordered that those sportes and recreac*i*ons vsed of late within this Citie vpon Saint George his daie, shalbe from hencefourth vsed and Continued in such decent and Comendable manner as by the Maior for the time beinge and his bretheren shalbe appoincted and allowed of as a pleasure or recreation performed and daie by Direction of the Maior and Citizens, and not by anie priuate or particuler person whatsoever

. . .

Corporation Lease Book CCALS: ZCHB 3
f 103*

Articles concerneing a horse race

Articles to be performed for Certaine orders towchinge the Runninge of a race for twoe bells and likewise for a Cuppe to be runne for at the Ringe vpon Saint George his day beinge the three and twentieth of Aprill. as followeth

ffirst it is agreed that the race for the bells, and runninge at the Ringe for the Cuppe that be houlden and kepte vpon St George his daye except it fall out to light either vpon Saterday or Saboath day, Then they shalbe Runne for vpon Mondaie next followinge and the Warninge by the drumm*er* and Cryer shalbe upon Saterday or the day next before St George day not beinge ye Saboath

Secondlie every man that bringeth in his horse for the race shall put in for to Runn for the bells xx s. Except him that bringeth in the best bell which shall pay but vj s. viij d., and him that bringeth in the second bell xiij s. iiij d. And he that winneth the best bell shall haue twoe partes of the money that is laid down And he that winneth the seconde bell shall haue the thrid parte which is the Residue of the money that is putt in. And eueryone that rydeth shall waye ^⌜or be made at waight iust⌝ tenne stone Waight. And to be wayde vpon the Roodey in a paire of Scales which shall be set vpp neare vnto the house where the Maior and his brethren standeth

Thirdlie everie one that runneth at the ringe for the Cuppe shall put in ij s. vj d. a man, excepte him that bringeth in the Cupp accordinge to his Covenante by bounde at the tyme appointed, whoe shall put nothinge in for three times Runninge of the ringe, And whoesoeuer doth take it the first three tymes shall haue the use of the Cupp accordinge to the Covenantes, and soe much Money as was put in. And if none doe take it the first three times, they shall all loose their money that they put in at the first, and the said money to be given to the Maior for the tyme beinge for the vse of the poore and prisonners of the Northgate. And they all or as many of them as please to put in newe money, viz. ij s. vj d.: euerie man as before is menc*ion*ed: to haue all the last Money that was putt in and the vse of the Cupp as afore is expressed. Prouided allwayes that he that shall Winne the game shall pay and giue to the prisoners of the Northgate v s., and to the Clerke for writinge of their names downe, ij s. vj d.

fourthlie they that Winne the bells shall giue to the prisonners in the Northgate x s. viz. he that winneth the best bell shall giue vj s. viij d., and he that winneth the seconde iij s. iiij d., if they runne aboue thre hor⟨...⟩ And if they Runne but three they shall allowe but vj s. viij d. onelie to be paid equallie amonge the ⟨...⟩

fiftlie he that winneth the said bells and Cuppe shalbe bounden to the Maior and Citizens of this Citie to bringe in the said bells and Cupp every yaire with one or two sufficient suerties for the deliue*ry* of the said bells (of the same waight and goodnes as they were when they Receaued them) vpp to the Maior or his deputie for the time beinge vpon St George his day in the Inner Pentice of the said Citie of Chester before twelue of the Clocke at Noone vpon the same day beinge the three and twentieth of Aprill vpon payn⟨.⟩ of forfeicture of theire boundes. Allsoe they shall pay to the Clarke when they doe enter into bounde for makinge their boundes xij d. for every bounde

Lastlie for givinge of the starte, either M*aste*r Sheriffes for the time beinge, or whome M*aste*r Maior will appointe: And that no horses geldinges or Mares shall come vpon the Roodey, but onlie those that doe runne, vntill the Race be ended. And allsoe that the ryders shall not offer one to an other any foule play in their ridinge vpon payne of ymprisonment. And these Articles and orders to be kept and performed vnviolated vpon payne of punishment and forfeicture of their bounde and Couenauntt as before is sett downe

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/27
mb [1] *(11 October 1611–16 October 1612)*

...	
Paid for 13 gall*ons* of Clarett & one potle of white wine at the venison feaste xxvij s. and for 3 gall*ons* of sacke xij s.	xxxix s.
Paid to Kelly for musique at the venison feaste	v s.
...	
Paid for makinge the Bulringe	ij s.
...	

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 23* *(11 October 1611–16 October 1612)*

...

Mr Roberte Amerye Iremonger who had bene sheriffe of this Cittye who was

Sheriffe in the yeare of the mayoraltye of Mr Will*ia*m Gamull. marchant in the yeare 1608./ Alsoe he beinge the onely man w*hi*ch firste Caused the horse Race. to be Runne vpon the Roodes dee/ vpon St george daye: and the Runinge of the Ringe, and alsoe vpon his owne Cost and Charges Caused the dyeall: and the two knockers at the south syde of St peters steople to be made and sett vpp. gyvinge warninge: vpon two litill bells.
The sayde Mr Amerye dyed. the 23. september 1612. and was buryed at St Bridges Church
...

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/4
p 19 *(25 November–25 December) (Extraordinary expenses)*
...

It*em* to ye waytes of ye Cittye at ye Audite tyme/	ij s.

...

p 20 *(25 December–25 March)*
...

Inp*r*imis payd to ye watchman attendinge the maior & Sheriffs iij nights & for Armore	ij s. vj d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/32/1
ff 3–3v *(13 January 1611/12–13 January 1612/13)*
...

Midsom*er* accompt*es*	p*ai*d for the child*es* shoes	xvj d.
	p*ai*d for his hose	xiiij d.
	p*ai*d for Riboning for the child*es* shoes	iij d.
	p*ai*d for a payer of gloues for the child	iiij d.
	geuen to the ij^{o} footemen that ‸⌜went⌝ [led] the Child*es* horse	viij d.
	p*ai*d for point*es* for the child*es* hose	ij d.
	p*ai*d for mending the banner to mr holmes	iij s. iiij d. |
	p*ai*d for bread.	iiij s.
	p*ai*d for drinke	v s.
	p*ai*d for cheese	ij s. xj d.
	p*ai*d for prunes	vj d.
	p*ai*d for horse bread	iiij d.
	p*ai*d for Riboning for the horse	ij d.
	spent in bread & drinke at the barres vpon the Companie	xvj d.
	geuen to the cryer	iiij d.

	geuen to the Castell	iiij d.
	geuen to the northgate	vj d.
	geuen to Siddalle	ij d.
	geuen to the piper	vj d.
	p*ai*d for alle at the banckett	iiij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 57* *(11 November–11 November)*

…

	Inprimis paide for three pottells of seacke and three pottells of Clarett wine the xj^th^ daye November at the dynner of Robert Ienson m*as*ter maior and divers of his brethren beinge invited at the same dinner the some	viij s.
h	Item paide the same tyme vnto Roberte Kellye and his companye for musicke	ij s. vj d.

…

w	Item paide to Roberte Kelly and his Companye for theire musicke at Ald*erman* Inces house the xiij^th^ daye Ianuarye 1611. when danyell wright came into the said Companye to be Abrother	ij s.

…

f 57v*

…

o	Item paid for five gleaves to Iohn lyngley	v s.
o	Item giuen hym to the berage	xij d.
w	Item giuen to the Iorneymen for theire Attendance at Shrovetyde	xij d.
o	Item giuen vnto the waytemen. vpon shrove tuseday after the Race at our Ald*erman* Inces	ij s.
	Item more giuen to Roberte kelly & his Companye at the same tyme at our Alderman Inces	ij s.

…

f 58

…

midsomer.	paide for one payer of shooes for our boye at midsomer	xvj d.
	paide for his stocking*es*	xiiij d.
	paide for his gloves	viij d.

29/ Shrovetyde: *22–4 February 1611/12*

30/ shrove tuseday: *24 February 1611/12*

paide for poyntes and sue tyes	iiij d.
paide to Roberte Kellye & his companye	iiij s.
Spente w*it*hout the barres	ij s. ij d.
geven to the Crier at the barres	vj d.
geven to will*ia*m Siddall	iiij d.
geven to the prisoners at the Castell & Northgate	ij s.
geven to mr whytheads man for leadinge the boyes horse	vj d.
geven to two men for tendinge the boye	xij d.
Spente at An overplushe at our Alderman Inces vpon midsom*er* even at our drinkinge	xij s. x d.

...

f 58v

...

Spente at An overplushe at the drinkinge of the barill of strong beere w*hi*ch Ald*erman* Ince bestowed vpon vs	iij d.
Given to the kellyes the same tyme	ij s.

...

f 59

...

paide vpon St martens Even at A drinkinge for the companye at our Alderman mr Inces howse	xxx s.
paide vnto the Iester	xij d.
paide vnto Roberte Kelly at his companye the same tyme	ij s.

...

f 61 *(Receipts)*

...

R*eceive*d of Thomas Ryder for his absence vpon midsom*er* even hym selfe & his man 12 d.	xij d.
R*eceived* of Richarde halliwall for the same fyne 6 d.	vj d.
R*eceived* of Thomas hatton for the same 6 d.	vj d.
R*eceived* of Richarde pemburton for the same 6 d.	vj d.

...

R*eceived* of Edwarde pemburton for havinge An vnlawfull man at midsomer watche 6 d.	vj d.
R*eceived* of Richarde Tottye for his man wantinge powther to shoote of at the watche fyned 12 d.	xij d.
R*eceived* of Humphrey lyniall one of the stewardes for his man wantinge powther one midsomer Even at the watch 12 d.	xij d.

...

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1
p 42* *(1 July–1 July)*

...

geuen to the Companie of bearebruers vj s. viij d.

...

Goldsmiths' Minutes CCALS: ZG 12/1
p 12* *(8 September)*

...

For the Charde of midsomer wache [1612]

mem*orandum* that the viijth of September 1612 yt is agreyed by the Consent of the Aldermen and Stewarde and the Rest of the Compeney that there shall not any of the Compeney exceode the Chardge of v s. yf he doe the Rest of the Chardge to be at his owne Chardge and not any of the Compeney to pay a boue his part of ffyve shillings.

(signed) Iohn Lynglaye Aldermane
(signed) Robert Smith
(signed) Richard warmynsham *(signed)* Thomas price stuard
(signed) Richard Gregorie
(signed) Griffith Edwardes
(signed) Iosephe Lingley

It*em* it agreyed by the Consent of the Alderman and Steward of the gouldsmyths that whoe soe ever shall make the bell that shalbe made a gainst Shrouftide ffor the Sadlers shall haue ffor his paines iiij s. iiij d. and yf any of the Compeney shall offend in the premisses shall pay vnto the Alderman and Steward and the Reste of the Compeney being iij s. 4 d.

And if all the oulde bells shalbe broke and not any of the Compeney to by any to be newe burnished or sould to the peneltie a ffore said

(signed) Iohn Lynylaye °Alderman° *(signed)* Richard warmynsham
(signed) Robert Smith *(signed)* Thomas price stuard *(signed)* Richard Gregorie
(signed) Griffith Edwardes

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 88 *(25 March 1612–25 March 1613)* *(Charges)*

...

It*em* paied for a case for the banner xiij d.

10/ Charde: *for* Chardge

It*em* for shoes for the Childe	xviij d.
It*em* for stockens	iij s.
It*em* for gloues	viij d.
It*em* spent at our Aldermans house one Midsomer Eve	xij d.
It*em* paied for a pottle of wyne at our banquet	xij d.
It*em* for two quart*es* of Ale	iiij d.
It*em* for a quarte of wyne and Sugar at ye Dressinge of the Childe	viij d.
It*em* gaue to mr Boothes ma*n*	xij d.
It*em* to two foteman	viij d.
It*em* paide for Musicke	iij s.
It*em* to the Cryer and to the prisoners of ye Castle & Northgate	xij d.
It*em* gaue to Sidle	ij d.

…

f 88v *(Receipts)*

…

It*em* Receiued of Roberte ap Pue for wantinge an harnis ma*n* vppon Midsomer Eve	vj d.

…

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book
CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2
pp 61–2 *(8 May 1612–7 May 1613)* *(Disbursements)*

…

midsomer.	i	more delivered to katheryn blease the .23. Iune 1612 vj yardes of Crimson silke Riben for the ladies sute	ij s.
	i	It*em* more ij ounc*es* of sinamonde of 4. ounc*es* of suger	xviij d.
	i	It*em* more the same daye. 4. yardes ½ silke Rebin at	xviij d.
	i	more one yarde of Silke Reben at	vj d.
	i	more one skine of Cremson silke	ij d.
	i	more paide for Codling*es* for our bankett	iiij d.
	i	more paide for one Cheese wayinge 9 li. and halfe at ij d. ob. p*er* li. is	ij s.

…

b	paide vnto peter pennant for three quarters of the yarde of taffyta . for the ladies gowne	ix s.
b	paide for halfe a yarde of Buckrom	v d.

27m, 29m, 30m, 31m, 32m, 33m, 34m/ i: *ie, Roland Johnson, one of the two stewards for the year*
37m, 39m/ b: *ie, Ralph Blease, one of the two stewards for the year*

paide for 3. quarters of the yarde of sackcloth	vj d.
paide for .2. yardes of whall. bone	iiij d.
paide for .2. yardes of goulde lace	ij s. vj d.
paide for one quarter of greene serge	vj d.
paide for .6. skines of greene and yellow silke	viij d.
paide for .3. quarters of fustian	ix d.
paide the Taylor for alteringe the gowne	ij s. vj d.
paide for one paier of gloves for the ladie	xvj d.
paide for one paier for the boye	viij d.
paide for .2. paier of Shooes for the Children	ij s. vj d. |
paide for .2. payer of stocking*es* for them	ij s. iiij d.
paide vnto 6. men that did attende the Children	iij s.
paide the Crier at the barres	vj d.
Geven to poore siddall beinge alame man	ij d.
Geven to the prisoners of the Castell	xij d.
Geven to the prisoners of the Northgate	xij d.
paide vnto the musicke	v s.
paide for Cakes and suger	iiij s. vj d.
paide for xij li. prvines	ij s.
paide for Comffytt*es*	iiij s.
paide for Conceates	vj d.
paide for Biskett breade	vj d.
paide for Suckett*es*	vj d.
paide for one gallon of sacke	iiij s.
paide for one gallon of Clarett wine	ij s.
paide for beere	vj s.
paide for suger and Rose water	vj d.
paide for two payer of gloves	viij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

ff [138–8v] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

...

Item spent on St Lukes day at M*ist*ris Rathburnes in Musick	ij s.

...

Item spent at Thomas Humfreys dynner in Wyne	iiij s.
Item spent in Musick at the same tyme	ij s. vj d.

...

Item for stuffe for the Childes Coate	xvj d.
Item for Buttons	iiij d.

Item for silke for the button holes	ij d.
Item for Inckle for the Childes Clothes	vj d.
Item for makeinge of the Childes Clothes	ij s. vj d.
Item for the Childes shoes	xiiij d.
Item for lyninge to the Childes Clothes	iiij d.
Item for gloues for the Childe	vj d.
Item for rybandinge to the Childe	vj d.
Item for stockinges for the Childe	xv d.
Item for a quarte of Wyne at dressinge of the Childe	vj d.
Item given him that ledd the horse	vj d.
Item given to the Crier at the barres and to the Prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	xij d.
Item giuen to the Musick	ij s. vj d. |
Item for poyntes	vij d.
[Item for pynnes	j d.]
[Item for Arsedyne for the garland]	j d.
Item for gildinge of the Childes Clothes	iij s.
Item payd for a pyke of Iron for the staffe	[xj d.] ij d.

...

Item for wyne at Midsomer	iij s.
Item for o*u*r feaste at Midsomer	vij s.
Item for stronge drinck at the same tyme	ij s.
Item for wyne at Thomas Allertons the vth of Auguste	x d.

...

1612–13

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

f 322v *(30 July)*

...

°George Callie his petition touching the waytship differed°

And fynallie at this Assemblie George Callie Musitian exhibiteth his Petic*io*n Deseringe that he and his felowe Musitians may be admitted waytes of this Cittie in steede of the Waytes now absent fyndinge Instrum*entes* of his owne Charg to p*er*forme the service w*hi*ch is deferred to be graunted vntill it may be vnderstoode what are become of the ould waytes

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 30

f 22* *(30 May)*

...

M*emorandum* that the day and yeare abovesaid vpon the [ad] former admittance of George Cally Musitian and the reste of his nowe Company to be Waytes of the said Cittie M*aste*r Maior did deliu*er* vnto the keepeinge and Custodie of the said George Callie for the vse of the same Cittie one double Curtayle wantinge a staple of brasse for a reede, and one tenor Cornett beinge the Citties instrum*entes*

…

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/28

mb [2] *(16 October–15 October)*

…	
paide to the Stewardes of Sadlers towardes the Bell at Shrovetyde	vj s. viij d.
…	
paied to Gueste for druminge on Shrovetewsday	xij d.
paied for plaisteringe and Rushinge the gallery on shrovtusday	iij s. iiij d.
paied for takinge vp and settinge downe the pales at rood dee	xvj d.
…	
paide to Routhe for settinge vp the pales after m*aste*r Sherriffes whitbyes horsse race	viij d.
…	

mb [3]

…	
paied to the Paynters for midsomer Shew	xliij s. iiij d.
…	
paied to Thomas wealch for Carrieng the Auntient at midsomer	ij s. vj d.
paied the Drum*m*er the same tyme	xij d.
…	

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/4

p 54 *(25 December–25 March)*

…	
Inprimis payd to ye Watchman attending iij nightis upon ye maior	ij s. vj d.
…	

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

f 27 *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

…

midsomer accompt*es*.

9/ Shrovetyde: *14–16 February 1612/13*

11, 13/ Shrovetewsday, shrovtusday: *16 February 1612/13*

p*ai*d for a payer of stocking*es* for the Child	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for a payer of shoes for him	xvj d.
p*ai*d for a payer of gloues for him	viij d.
spent at dressing of the Child	ij s.
spent at p*ro*curing a horse and for Iwells for the Child	xij d.
p*ai*d for keping o*ur* banner	xij d.
geuen to the cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the Northgate	vj d.
geuen to Castell	vj d.
p*ai*d for bread and cheese at o*ur* banquett	iiij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for ryboning/ & for the horse and ryboning for the Child*es* shoes	xiij d.
p*ai*d for strong beere	v s.
p*ai*d for prunes & suger	xiiij d.
p*ai*d for wine	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d to ij^{o} footemen that lede the child*es* horse	viij d.
p*ai*d for Mvsicke	v s.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/32/1
f 7v *(13 January 1612/13–13 January 1613/14) (Disbursements)*

…

midsomer accompt*es*

p*ai*d for accheese	ij s. x d.
p*ai*d for bread	iiij s.
p*ai*d for drinke	iiij s.
p*ai*d for shoes for the child	xv d. [j d.]
p*ai*d for a payer of hoes for the child	xvj d.
p*ai*d for gloues	iiij d.
p*ai*d for point*es*	iij d.
p*ai*d for ryboning for the child*es* shoes	iij d.
p*ai*d to mr holmes for keping the banner	xij d.
p*ai*d for horsebread	iiij d.
spent at the barres	ix d.
geuen to the cryer	iiij d.
geuen to old siddall	ij d.
geuen to the Castell	iiij d.
geuen to the Northgate	vj d.
geuen to the pip*er*	viij d.
p*ai*d for walnutt*es*	ix d.
p*ai*d for prunes	vj d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

ff 67–7v *(11 November–11 November) (Disbursements)*

...

paide for gleaves	v s.
Spente at berrage of the gleaves	xxj d.

...

Geven to the waytemen. at the stewarde Gregoryes howse at shroftyde	ij s. |
Geven to Roberte kelly the same tyme	ij s. vj d.
paide vnto the stewards of the Iorney men. for theire attendance at shrofetyde	xij d.

...

f 68

...

midsomer charg

paide for one paier of stocking for our boye	xxij d.
paide for the boyes gloves	x d.
paid for his shooes	xviij d.
paide vnto the men for tendinge the boye	ij s.
paide for one yarde of silke Reben	xij d.
Spent at the barres	ij s. vj d.
given to the Crier	vj d.
Given to will*ia*m Sidall	iiij d.
Given to the prisoners of the Castell & the Northgate	ij s.
Spente in wine at the bankett	xxj d.
Geven to the musioners Rob*er*t kelly and his Company	iiij s.
[S] paide for mending our banner and staffe	ix d.
Spent at An overplushe at our bankett	xj s. vj d.

...

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 43* *(6 July–6 July) (Disbursements)*

...

geuen to the bearebruers vpon midsom*er* even	vj s. viij d.

...

Goldsmiths' Minutes CCALS: ZG 12/1

p 13 *(8 February)*

Ite*m* that the viij^{t} of ffebruarie 1612 it is agreyed by the whole Consent of

---

8, 11/ shroftyde, shrofetyde: *14–16 February 1612/13* 26/ musioners: *for* musisioners the Compeney of the Gouldsmythes that ffor the brood Arrowes shall waygh everie Arrowe viij d. and ffor the makinge of everie Arrowe iiij d. soe that yf any shall sell vnder xij d. and ffor everie defalt that shalbe ffounde by ether Alderman or Steward*es* ore any of the Compeney shall pay [vnto] vnto the Aldermane and Stewards of the Compeney ffor the time beinge ffor fforfeture xij d. and ffor deniall of the premises y*a*t shalbe lawffull for the Compeney of the gouldsmyths w*i*th the Alderman and Steward*es* to distresse of any thinges in his shope to the valewe of xij d. whom shalbe found in deffault And that all the gleues y*a*t the drapers shall Rec*eive* everie yeare by mariags shalbe broken

(signed) Iohn lynglay
(signed) Robert Smith
(signed) Richard wormynsham*m*
(signed) Griffith Edwardes
(signed) Richard Gregorie
(signed) Iosephe Lingley

Alderman
Thomas price
stward

…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42
f [1] *(1 August–1 August)*

…

Item Rec*eived* of Mr Iohn Brewerton for his abscence from the Watch and wantinge his watchman	ij s. vj d.

…

(Disbursements)

Item paide for the loane of a hatt for the boy at Midsom*er*	xij d.
Item paid for a payre of stockings and garters	ij s.
Item for a payre of shooes and shooe tyes	xxij d.
Item for a payre of gloues	vj d.
Item paide for keepinge the banner	xij d.
Item spent in wyne at the dressinge of the boy	vj d.
Item giuen to the Cryer	iiij d.
Item giuen to the prisoners at the Castle	vj d.
Item giuen to the prisoners at the Northgate	vj d.
Item spent at the bankett after the watch	v s.
Item paid for wyne at the same tyme	ij s.
Item paid to two men to Attend the boy	xvj d.
Item paid to George Cally for his paynes at Midsomer	vj s. viij d.

…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

f [1] *(1 August 1613–1 August 1614) (Disbursements)*

...

Imp*ri*mis paid to George Kelly to make vpp the monney giuen him at Mr Buttons house by the Aldermens appoyntement	viij s.
Item giuen vnto him more for Musicke vppon the Election day 1613 at Iohn Leeusleys house	v s.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 90 *(25 March 1613–25 March 1614) (Charges)*

...

It*em* for a paire of shoes for ye Childe y*a*t Ride at midsomer	xiiij d.
It*em* for a paire of stockens	xiiij d.
It*em* for a paire of gloues	xv d.
It*em* for musicke	xviij d.
It*em* for a pottle of Wyne at the banket	xij d.
Item to the Cryer & to the prisoners at ye Castle and Northgate	xij d.
Item for a quarte of wyne at the dressinge of the Childe	vj d.
It*em* for a Ribbine to tie at the horse heade	vj d.
Item for paintinge the staffe	vj d.

...

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

pp 66–8 *(7 May 1613–6 May 1614)*

...

paide at mr Leycester shoppe the 19. Iune 1613 for v yardes halfe of Braunched stuff for the boyes sute .at. 5 s. 6 d. p*er* yarde is	xxvij s. vj d.
paide for one yarde of Canvas the 21. Iune 1613	viij d.
paide for 3. dossen silke bottons and .4. skynes sylke	xiiij d.
paide the 22. Iune for one yarde of Rebin	iiij d.
paide the same daye for one standinge Collor	xx d.
paide for apples	vj d.
paide for xij li. prvines	ij s. vj d.
paide for j li. powder suger	xvj d.

...

paide for .6. yardes of iij d. Rebin	xviij d.

	paide for one payer of hoose and shooes for the boye	iij s. iiij d.
	paide for .2. yardes one q*uarte*r of 6 d. Rebin	xiiij d.
	paide for. apayer of gloves for hym y*a*t tended the boy	vj d.
	paide for beere at the barres	xij d.
	paide vnto the Crier . to the prisoners of the Castell northgate and to lame Siddall	iij s.
	paide for the Musicke	v s. |
	paide for one dossen sylke poyntes for the boyes sute	xviij d.
	paide for makinge the Ierken doblet and hoose for the boye	iij s.
	paide for .3. ounc*es* synamond and .6. ounc*es* suger	xx d.
	paide more for apples	vj d.
	paide for wafers	vj d.
	paide for Marmalat	xviij d.
	paide for Cakes	iiij s.
	paide for A Cheese	ij s.
	paide for orrenges and Leemons	vj d.
	paide for beere	v s.
	paide for Claret wine and sacke	vij s.

...

Blease	paide the 17. Iune 1613. in wine suger and bread	ij s. viij d.
	paide for beiskie bread the 23. Iune 1613	x d.
	paide for suckett	xj d. |
b	paide for ij li. Comfett*es*	iiij s.
b	paide for Conceates	vj d.
b	paide for one payer of gloves for the geirls	xv d.
b	paide for .2. payer of gloves for the two men	viij d.
b	paide for the geirle for her hoose and shooes	iij s. vj d.
b	paide vnto the men. that did attende the geirle	xviij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [140] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

It*em* paid for the Companies two new banners	l s.

...

24m/ Blease: *Ralph Blease, one of the stewards for the year*

27m, 28m, 29m, 30m, 31m, 32m/ b: *ie, Ralph Blease, one of the stewards for the year*

It*em* [spent at a] ‸⌜for the⌝ feast on midsomer Eue	vij s.
It*em* for strong beare	ij s. vj d.
It*em* for musick	ij s. vj d.
It*em* to him that ledd the horsse	xij d.
Item for gloues for the Childe	v d.
Item Hose for the Childe	xv d.
Item shoes for the Childe	xv d.
Item at the Castle Barres and Northgate	xij d.

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 61/16
f [1]

Taken at Chester before Alderman Gamull

...

to be whipped

Iohn Greene ex*am*i*n*ed sayeth That hee was borne woller[ton]hampton but doth Inhabitte in Islington and Came from thence a ffortnight since and came to this Cittie vppon the faire even, and hath lodged since his Comminge in a barne neere to this Cittie and came hither of purpose to see a brother of this ex*amin*at*e* w*hi*ch hee Imagined would bee at this fare beinge by trade a spurrier and to see the Midsomer showe w*i*thin the same Cittie...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 61/44
single sheet* *(8 December)*

Taken before the mayor

...

[Iohn Garfield of the Cittie of Chester Ioyner exa*min*ed Sayth that he this exa*minate* vpon All *Saintes* even laste beinge at worke and haveinge newlie finished the same he went as farre as the Maypole [also] in Hanbridge [ante] aboute eleven of the Clock in the night Where George Dewsbury and one Henrie s*er*vant to Thomas Dewsburie did in their way into Hanbridge [Ke] Catch a tupp and putt the same vpp in the Whitefryer lane as they tould this exa*minat*e at their Coming to them And sayth that afterwardes it beinge aboute eleven or twelve of the Clock in the night they went into the house of the said Iohn Ashbrooke where they druncke [aboute] a pott of Ale and afterwardes]
Ihon Garfeild of the Cyty of Chester Ioyner beinge exa*min*ed Concerninge his, and others, walkinge in the streetes in the night tyme, and fore diu*er*se misdemen*or*s by them supposed to be Com*m*itted, in Castinge downe the stones and batilm*en*t of the wales vpon Dee bridge and knockinge at mens dower and disquyetinge them, sayeth that vpon all *Saintes* Evon at night betwene xj & xij of the Clocke in the night hearinge a noyse in the streete

went into the streete, and there founde one george Dewsbury and one henry servant to Thom*as* dewesbury and one george dewesbury ^⌜and then came to them one Ihon nicholl*es*⌝ whoe had taken a tupp or ram and putt it into Iohn asbrook*es* stable, and then they went into Ihon Asbrook*es* and drunke a pott of ale, and from thence they went into hanbridge and to the further end of handbridge and Called for ale at *Willia*m hallywells howse, who aunsweared he had noe ale, and then they went to the meypoole in hanbridge, and the said Nicoll*es* then bade good morrowe to one Ihon Robynson and this exam*inate* then said it was pyty that my Lady (meyninge Robynsons wyfe) should lye alone, but denyeth that he or any of the Company, wysshed they were in bedd w*i*th his wyfe: and [then] they daunced about the meypole, both at the*ire* goinge and Com*m*inge backe againe, and sayeth That Ihon Nicoll*es* and george Byrom Called at By Byfelde*s* dome, and gave somme speeches to him, but knoweth not what they said and sayeth that he no 〈...〉 whyles he was in the | Company did Cast any stones of the wall*es* vpon Dee bridge, nor did [〈...〉y〈.〉 to] Riott nor vt〈.〉er misdemeno*rs*, and then he lefte them standinge in Mr Bothes Roe, and went to his bedd...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 61/47
single sheet *(15 December)*

Taken at Chester before the mayor

...

William Moores of the said Cittie of Chester vintner sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth & sayth That vppon saterdaie night last past there Came vnto this exa*minat*es house one Iohn Peacocke a piper by profession and lodged there all night and sithence vntill this daie, sayth That this night last past the said Piper played vntill Eleven of the Clocke in the night or therabout*es* and That there was in his house Iasp*er* Gillam and his sonne and a man of mr Calueley of the lea brought thither by the said Iasp*er* and his sonne Thomas, and sayth That this exa*minat*e went to bedd and left the said Companie in his house, but at what time they dep*ar*ted & left his house, this exa*minat*e knoweth not, sayth further, That this woman now found in his house Came thither allso vppon Saterdaie last and hath sithence hitherto lodged there, sayth shee tould him, That shee Came from ^⌜toward*es*⌝ hallwell & would goe to milton greene to a sister That dwelleth there, but what her name is hee knoweth not sayth allso That not anie of the Watche came to this exa*minat*es house this night last past, to Commaunde him to shutt his doores or goe to bedd, that this exa*minat*e either heard or knewe of and moore sayth not

(signed) William Mores
(signed) Will*ia*m Aldersey |

25/ saterdaie night last past: *5 December 1612*

Elizabeth Craddocke al*ias* Armes wife of Randle Armes of Bagaley exa*min*ed sayth That her husbaund is nowe workinge in mr hassells Clepitt*es* and That shee this exa*minat*e Came to this Cittie vppon saterdaie last and hath sithence lodged at the house of the former exa*minat*e Moores, and That shee Came of purpose to meete her mother whoe duelleth in Burton in Wirrall whoe is nowe Called Anne Craddocke a Widowe, sayth That this night last past there was a pyp*er* that played there and had lyen there since Saterdaie last and That this exa*minat*e danced after him for a while w*i*th an ould man, whose name she knoweth not, sayth That this ex*aminat*e went to bedd about ix of the Clocke, and That her bedd was taken vppe, That shee the former night*es* had lyen in by one Thomas Bleas, sayth That shee purposed to haue gone this morninge to milton greene to see a sister whoe dwelleth there, and is called m*ar*garet Craddocke, and moore sayth not./
(signed) William Aldersey
(signed) Edward Dutton

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 61/84
single sheet *(21 April)*

Taken at Chester before the mayor

...

He sayth that Mr Gregg*es* man invited him, and that he went but not fyndinge him there he stayed not

He sayth alsoe that aboute a moneth before Christemas laste this exam*inates* said Apprentice was invited and went to a Sillibub to the house of one Margerie Waterson where what he spent this exa*minat*e sayth he knoweth not/ He confesseth that Cominge out of Wirrall aboute his M*aste*rs busynes he mett w*i*th Rob*er*t Cally about 4 of the Clock in the morning and desyred him to teache him daunce & stayed dancing one hower†
He further sayth that aboute the begyninge of Lent laste this exa*minat*e haveinge occasion to goe downe into Wirrall his said Apprentce in the meane tyme [vpon] did goe to the house of Rob*er*t Cally Musician in the night tyme and Came not home vntill the morning after/

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 61/131
f [1v]* *(20 September)*

...

Margaret Walshe of the said Cittie of Chester Widowe sworne and exa*min*ed deposeth and sayth that vpon fryday laste aboute two of the Clock in the after noone she this exa*minat*e Cominge to the house of Richard Iohnson to speake w*i*th one Worthington who had [shewd] ^⌜attached⌝ her sonne

---

37/ fryday laste: *17 September 1613*

Nicholas Walshe w*ith* processe to appeare at London and demaundinge of him the said Worthington by What aucthoritie he had [shewd] ‸⸢attached⸣ her said sonne desyred that he [would] would shewe his [aut] aucthoritie to M*aste*r Maior or to Mr Dutton or some other Iustice of Peace W*ith*in the said Cittie and that if there were any Cause she would take order for the same, w*hi*ch said Worthington therevpon answered that if [they] ⸢M*aste*r Maior or Mr Dutton⸣ had any thinge to doe w*ith* him they should come to him for he would not Come to them [and] sayinge that he had power to Comaund [them and they] ‸⸢M*aste*r Maior and he⸣ not him And sayd further that M*aste*r Maior was Balaam and Balams Asse

…

1613–14

Note Concerning the Tailors' Petition CCALS: ZAF 10/7

f [2v]* *(22 October)*

William Aldersay Maior off the thaldremen Sheriffes &
the tyme of the Maioraltie of Mr Richard Dutton

…

This petition to be differed vntill the ould Thre*sure*rs [to] be spoken w*ith* and that it maie bee knowne What did become of the timber frame of the said Carriadge house & then this house to consider of their peticion.

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 30

f 22* *(4 June)* *(Portmote court)*

…

proxi*me* Comparuit

M*anucaptio* Rober*ti* Callie Musician de pace ferend*a* d*omi*no Regi et o*mn*ibus ligeis suis et precipue Thome ffisher Musician vsq*ue* proxi*mam* Cur*iam* Portmot*i* Ciui*tatis* predict*e* apud Ciui*ta*tem Cestr*ie* predict*am* Coram Maiore eiusdem Ciui*tatis* pro tempore existen*te* prox*ime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad Comp*ar*end*um* et abinde sine licenc*ia* non recedend*um* sub pena xl li. Will*el*m*us* Newall

proxi*me* Comparuit

M*anucaptio* Thome fissher Musician de pace ferend*a* d*omi*no Regi et o*mn*ibus ligeis suis et precipue Roberto Callie Musitian vsq*ue* proxi*mam* Cur*iam* Portmoti Ciui*tatis* predict*e* apud Ciui*ta*tem Cestr*ie* predict*am* Coram Maiorem eiusdem Ciui*tatis* pro tempore existent*em* prox*ime* tenend*am* et tunc et ib*ide*m ad Comp*ar*end*um* et abinde non recedend*um* sub pena xl li. Rob*er*tus Leeues

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/30

mb [3] *(15 October–14 October) (Payments)*

...

payed to Squire for playinge on the Cornett vpon the king*es* day xviij d.

...

Payde to Squire the Cornett player by m*aste*r Mayors appoyntment to gett him out of the Cittye vj s. viij d.

...

payed to Gueste for Braceng the drum and druminge at m*aste*r mayors watche xij d.

...

mb [4]

...

Payed to the Company of Sadlers for the bell on Shrofftuesday vj s. viij d.

...

Payed for takinge vpp the Pales and settinge them downe on Shrovetewsday last xvj d.

...

payed to Gest for druminge on Shrovetewsday xij d.

...

Payed for a Burthen of Rushes for the gallery on shrovetuesday viij d.

mb [5]

...

payed to Nicholas hallwood and Will*ia*m handcock by warrant vnder m*aste*r Mayor*es* hand for tryminge the Cittyes Mounte xxvj s. viij d.

...

mb [6]

...

paied to the paynters for dressinge & repayringe midsomer shew xliij s. iiij d.

...

17, 20, 22, 25/ Shrofftuesday, Shrovetewsday last, Shrovetewsday, shrovetuesday: *8 March 1613/14*

payed to Iohn Anyon for ten yardes & a half of Cloth at viij s. p*er* yard to make the Waytemens gownes	iiij li. iiij s.
…	
payed to Guest for druminge at midsomer	xij d.
payed for heading and cording the Citties drum	ij s. vj d.
…	
paid to Walshe for bearinge the Auntient at midsomer	ij s. vj d.
…	

Letter of Grievance from the Tallow-Chandlers to the Mayor
CCALS: ZML 6/102
f [1]

To the Right worshippfull William Aldersaye maior of the Cittye of Chester

Certeyne Greiffes shewed vnto your good wor*ship* by the Companye of Tallowchaundlers of this Cittye

your good worshipp shall truely vnderstand: that wee the Tallowchaundlers and Barbers of this Cittye. beinge made one companye and meetinge to gether. divers tymes at our meetinge howse. as conc*er*ninge the good of our companye. and the Common wealth of this Cittye/ The saide Companye of barbers by theire more voyces contrarye to our myndes and alsoe contrarye to our orders of Auncient tyme, hath admitted into our companye or brotherhood of our trade divers p*er*sons: w*hi*ch hath not served. accordinge to our Auncient orders as others hath done here to fore. w*hi*ch hath bene and is to our greate hynderance and losse./
…
ffourthly: that whereas yt is an order Auncient in ‸⌈the⌉ said companye that vpon the kinges holy dayes. and At the watch vpon midsomer even. that we the said Tallowchaundlers and barbers: shoulde attende to gether. vpon your wor*ship* and vpon other maiors for the tyme beinge the said barbers at such tymes: doth vtterly refuse vs. and doth Companye themselves. w*i*th the pa⟨..⟩ters grasiors ymbroderers and Stacioners and leaves vs. beinge few in nomber. to our greate greiffe
…

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83
f 24v *(15 October–14 October)*
…
Alsoe manye Noble mens players and alsoe beeres came to this Cittye, w*hi*ch

21/ concerninge: *3 minims for* nin *in MS*

Coste the sayde two leavelookers much money. w*hi*ch the did moste willingly paye for the Creditt of the Cittye/

...

AC **Holy Trinity Churchwardens' Accounts** BL: Harley MS 2177

f 84 *(10 July)*

...

®brake his neck goinge downe a payre of stayres by the church

Iohn brookes Mason who poynted the steple 1610 & made many showes & pastymes on the steple of Trinity & also on the topp of St peters steple as many thousands did wittnesse dyed 10 Iuly & bur*ied* 11 Iuly in the church yard

...

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

f 30 *(23 November–23 November) (Disbursements)*

...

midsom*er* accompt*es*

ffirst paid for a payer of stocking*es* for the Child	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for a payer of shoes for the child	xvj d.
p*ai*d for a payer of gloues for the child	ix d.
spent at dressing the Child	ij s.
spent at p*ro*curing a horse for the child and for other necessaries	xviij d.
p*ai*d for keping o*ur* banner	xij d.
geven to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the Castell	vj d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the northgate	vj d.
p*ai*d for bread and cheese at the banquet	v s.
p*ai*d for pointe*s* and Ryboning for the Child	xij d.
p*ai*d for strong beare	v s.
p*ai*d for prunes and suger	xviij d.
p*ai*d for wine at the banquett	ij s. vj d.
geuen to ij^{o} footemen that led the Child*es* horse	xvj d.
paid for musicke	v s.
paid for walnut*es* wafers nut*es* & gingbread	xvj d.
p*ai*d [for] more then was allowed for a samond from the drawers in dee	xvj d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/32/1

f 10v *(13 January 1613/14–13 January 1614/15) (Disbursements)*

...

Midsomer accompt*es*

ffirst paid for [horsehier for] the Child ‸⌜shoes⌝	xvj d.
paid for the Child*es* gloues	iiij d.

p*ai*d for ij^{o} payer of gloues for the footemen	x d.
paid for prunes	vij d.
paid for Cheese	ij s. viij d.
paid for bread	iiij s.
paid for beare	v s.
paid for Riboninge	iij d.
paid for horse bread	iiij d.
paid for point*es*	ij d.
paid to Rondell holmes for keping the banner	xij d.
spent at the barres	x d.
geuen to the cryer	iiij d.
geuen to Sciddall	ij d.
geuen to the Castell	iiij d.
geuen to the Northgate	vj d.
paid for Musicke	xvj d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 72 *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

...

harrye leeynes to paye for his fyne for wanting his man vpon midsomer even to paye 3 d.	iij d.
Thomas Tylston for the same	3 d.
Will*ia*m Croughton fyned for the same	3 d. iij d.

...

f 74 *(Payments)*

...

Inprimis paide vnto Roberte Kellye and his companye vpon St m*ar*tens daye at night & the night after at the other stewards howse for musick	iiij s.

...

more geven to Roberte Kellye & his companye	ij s.

...

f 74v

...

Shrovetyde	paide for sixe gleaves and the beirage	v s. x d.
	paide to george kellye and his companye at shrovetyde	ij s. vj d.

38m, 39/ Shrovetyde, shrovetyde: *6–8 March 1613/14*

payd at mr Inces his howse vppon thursday after shroftid xiiij s.	Geven to the drumer and his fute	vj d.
	Geven vnto Thomas hough	iiij d.
	Geven vnto Roberte kelly	ij s.
	paide for two quartes seacke at Alderman Inces vpon the Companye	ij s.
	Geven vnto the Stewards of the Iorneyme for their Attendance at shrovetyde	xij d.

…

ff 75–5v

…

Spent. at. Mr Will*ia*m Gamull. for one quarte of. seacke: in speakinge for his sonne to Ryde at midsomer	xij d.

…

Midsomer Charges [12 s. 7 d.]	[paide for ⟨…⟩kettinge stuffe for the benkett	iiij s. iiij d.
	paide for two Cheeses	⟨…⟩j s. ⟨..⟩j d.
	paide for halfe a barill of stronge beere	vij s.
	paide for orrenges and one lemmon	vij d.
	paide for iiij ⟨…⟩ of walnutt*es*	xx d.
	paide for breade and stronge beere	v s. ij d.
	paide for w*hi*t*e* suger	ix d.
	paide for Currantes	vj d.
	paide for the loone of Iugg*es*	v d.
	paid for synamond	xvj d.
	paid for ⟨…⟩ Nutt*es*	vj d.
	paid for veneger	vj d.
	paide for waferes	viij d.]
midsomer/.	paide for the buskyns for the boye	iiij s.
	paide for Carnation sylke Rebyn to tye them	xvj d.
	pade for the boyes Gloves	viij d.
	paide to the three men for theire Attendance	xviij d.
	paide to woodcocke at the barres	vj d.
	paide to the prisoners of the Castell	xij d.
	Geven to will*ia*m Sydall	iiij d.
	paide for one pottell of sacke	ij s.
	paide more for one pottell and one pint sacke	ij s. vj d.
	paide for musicke	iiij s.
	Spente w*i*thout the barres at the watch	ij s. vj d.

…

1/ fute: *for* flute *(?)*

3–4m/ thursday after shroftid: *10 March 1613/14*

6/ Iorneyme: *for* Iorneymen

7/ shrovetyde: *6–8 March 1613/14*

paide at an overplushe at the bankett vpon mydsomer even	xvj s.

...

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 45* *(5 July–5 July) (Disbursements)*

...

geuen to the beare bruers	x s.

...

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

f [1] *(1 August–1 August) (Receipts)*

...

Item Receaued from the Alehouses Towardes the settinge forth of the showe vppon midsomer Eue	xvj s.

...

f [1v] *(Disbursements)*

Item paid for Two paynted [sce⟨..⟩s of] suites of Apparrell agaynst Midsomer Eue	xxiiij s.
Item spent at the Agreement for the making of the said Apparrell and giuen vnto the workemen	vj d.
Item paid vnto two men who did weare the same Apparrell vppon Midsomer Eue	ij s.
Item paid for Cupps and giuen to them who did gather the broken Cupps	xviij d.
Item paid to him that Rid in womans Apparrell and to him that Rid to throwe graynes	ij s.
Item paid to two men to lead theire horses	xx d.
Item giuen to Mr Gamulls Man for providinge horses and panyers for them that did Ryd	xij d.
Item paid to one Man to gett graines and to serue him that did Ryde	viij d.
Item paid more to Richard Ithell w*hi*ch hee disbursed for graines and to one to fetch them	xiiij d.
Item paid for a Cann and byndinge it w*i*th Iron	xvj d.
Item paid for the loane of a Hatt for the boy w*hi*ch did Ryde for the Company vppon Midsomer Eiue	xij d
Item paid for stockinges and gloues for him	ij s. vj d.
Item paid for shooes and shootyes	xxij d.

Item spent in wyne at the dressinge of the boy	viij d.
Item paid to two men to Attend the Childe and to Carry the Banner	xvj d.
Item paid for keepinge of the Banner	xij d.
Item spente at the hyringe of the Trumpeters and Musicke for the Company	xij d.
Item giuen vnto them for their Attendance vppon Midsomer Eue	vij s.
Item spent vppon the Company before the watch vppon Midsomer Eue	v s.
Item spent more at henry Phillips house	ix d.
Item giuen to the Cryer at the Barrs and to the prisoners at the Castle and the Northgate	xvj d.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 92 *(25 March 1614–25 March 1615)* *(Charges)*

…

It*em* for Hoose and shoues for ye Childe y*a*t did Ride vppon midsomer Eve	iiij s.
It*em* for gloues	ix d.
It*em* for Dressinge the stafe and the trunche	xij d.
It*em* spent on the boies mother when we Receiued ye staffe	iiij d.
It*em* paied to the Cryer & to the Castle and Northgate	xij d.
Item spent at Alderma*n* Salisburies	xij d.
It*em* for Musicke	ij s.
It*em* spent in Ale at the banquet	xij d.
It*em* spent at ye Dressinge of the boie	vj d.
It*em* for a Ribbine for the horse heade	iij d.
It*em* to Thomas Bedles man to lead the horse	iiij d.
Item to olde Sidle	ij d.
It*em* spent vppon mr Pilkinto*n* when we went to entreat him that his sonne might Ride	iiij d.

…

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 73 *(6 May 1614–5 May 1615)*

…

Imprimis payde thẹ 22th daye of Iune A*nn*o 1614 for. vij li. of prun*n*es	xvij d.

payde for iij oz of Sinamound	xv d.
payde for halfe pounde of sugar	viij d.
payde for ij li. of Comfett*es*	iiij s.
payde for prince and. biskett breade	xj d.
payde for q*uarte*r pounde of Conseates	ix d.
payde for ij C of Wallnutt*es*	xij d.
payde for Beare	vij s.
payde for Wyne	v s.
payde for Cakes	iiij s.
payde for Cheese	*(blank)*
payde for ij paere of stockinngs for the towe Childrenn	iij s. x d.
payde for j Yarde of vj d. broade Ribbenn and j Yarde of iij d. broade ribbenn	ix d.
payde for a paere of gloves for the ladye	x d.
payde for ij paere of glooves for her men	xij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [142] *(18 October–18 October) (Payments)*

...

payd for apayer of hose for the Child medsomer eue	xvi d.
payd for the Childes shoes	xvi d.
payd for Ribeing for the Childes shoes	iij d.
payd for gloues for the Child	vi d.
payd at the bars Castel and northgat	xij d.
payd for the banket on medsomer eue	vij s.
payd for musicke on medsomer eue	ij s. vi d.
payd for a quart of seke and a quart of ‸⌜Clarret⌝ wine	xx d.
payd for strong alle	xij d.

...

Inventory of Richard Wright CCALS: WS 1613

f [1v] *(14 March)*

...

I*tem* a payer of virginalles	vj s. viij d.

...

1614–15

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/31
mb [3] *(14 October–13 October) (Payments)*

…

Item paied the Company of the Sadlers for the bell offered at Shrovetide vj s. viij d.

…

Item paied Guest for druminge on Shrove Tewsday iiij d.

Item paied for removinge the pales at the roodee for the horsserace on shrouetuesday and for placeinge of them agayne xvj d.

…

mb [4]

…

Item paied maister Alderman Littler for xiiij yardes ‸⌈& a half⌉ of broade Cloth at viij s. the yarde, to make the waytemen gownes, and the boyes Cloakes v li. xvj s.

Item paied mr Littler more for vij. yardes of ffrice at xvj d. the yarde to make the Bellman for the night a gowne ix s. iiij d.

…

Item paied by m*aste*r maiors appoyntment, for a pottle of Sack and suger spent in the pentice at the Cominge vpp from the Roodee from St Georges Race ij s. vj d.

…

Item paied Guest the drum*m*er for drum*m*inge on St Georges day xij d.

Item paied for takeing downe the pales at the roodee and for settinge vp of them xvj d.

…

Item paid to Nicholas halwood paynter, by the appoyntment of *Maste*r maior, for tryminge of the Iyant*es* at midsomer last xliij s. iiij d.

…

Item paied Gest for his Drum*m*inge at midsomer showe xij d.

…

6/ Shrovetide: *19–21 February 1614/15*
8, 10/ Shrove Tewsday, shrouetuesday: *21 February 1614/15*
25/ Georges Race: *italicized*

mb [5]

…

Item paied Thomas walsh for carryinge the Citties Ensigne on midsomer eve ij s. vj d.

…

Item paied by vertue of m*aste*r maiors warrant to one, who lent the Cittie a drum, in the last trayninge of our souldiers, and also for amendinge of the Citties drum iij s. vj d.

…

mb [6]

…

Item paied Gruffith Edward*es* goldsmith for puttinge a Siluer Clapper in the Rood-dee Bell w*hi*ch was lost iij s. iiij d.

…

AC **_City Treasurers' Accounts_** BL: Harley MS 2158

f 20 *(14 October–13 October) (Watergate Street)*

…

It*e*m for a stable sometyme*s* the Mercers carridge howse p*er* ann*um* iij s. iiij d.

more for voyd grownd sometyme*s* the drap*er*s carriadge howse p*er* ann*um* xij d.

…

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/4

p 101 *(25 November–25 December) (Extraordinary expenses)*

…

It*e*m payd to George Callye musicion at ye Audyte ij s.

…

p 102 *(25 December–25 March)*

…

Inp*r*imis payd Dec*ember* 29th to ye watchman attendinge iij nightes ye maior & Sheriffes & for Armore hyred for y*a*t purpose ij s. vj d.

…

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

ff 31–1v *(25 November 1614–27 November 1615)*

Midsom*er* accompt*es*

pa*i*d for a payer of stocking*es* for the Child ij s. vj d.

pa*i*d for a payer of shoes for the Child xviij d.

p*ai*d for gloues for the Child	ix d.
spent at dressing the Child	ij s.
spent in getting a horse for the Child & for other necessaries	xviij d.
p*ai*d for keping the banner	xij d. |
p*ai*d for musicke	v s.
[p*ai*d for Cakes	ij s.]
p*ai*d for beare	v s.
p*ai*d for ‸⌜bread and⌝ Cheese	vj s. [viiij d.]
p*ai*d for prunes suger & sinomon	xviij d.
p*ai*d for Wine	ij s.
p*ai*d for pepp*er* and vineger	ij d.
geuen to a man that led the horse	vj d.
geuen to ij^{o} footemen	xvj d.
geuen to the cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the Castell	vj d.
geuen to the Northgate	vj d.
p*ai*d for Riboning for the Child*es* shoes	vj d.

...

p*ai*d to the drawers of dee more then they allowed for a samond	ij s. viij d.
[spent at getting a Cheyne & other Iuells for the child	xij d.]

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/32/4
ff 13–13v *(13 January 1614/15–13 January 1615/16) (Disbursements)*

...

Midsomer accompt*es*

paid for acheese	iij s. iiij d.
paid for hose. shoes & shoe ties & gloues for the Child	ij s. viij d.
p*ai*d for point*es*	iij d.
p*ai*d for beare	v s.
p*ai*d for bread	iiij s.
p*ai*d for Walnut*es* prunes & apples	xiij d.
p*ai*d for the meting howse rent	vj d.
geuen to the musicion*er*s	x d.
p*ai*d for ij^{o} quart*es* of Wine	xvj d.
geuen for keping the banner	xij d.
spent at the barres vpon the Companie	[xij d. ⟨...⟩ d. xv d.] xv d.
geuen to the northgate	vj d. |

9/ vj: *corrected from* iij *(?)*

geuen to the Castell	iiij d.
geuen to the Cryer	iiij d.
geuen to Siddalle	ij d.
geuen to S*i*r Henry Boothes man for dressing the horse	iiij d.
p*ai*d for ijo payer of gloues for the footemen	xvj d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/3

f 81 *(11 November–11 November)*

...

Inprimis paide vpon St martens daye beinge the xjth daye of November 1614 at Rondall Inces dynner. one pottell of sacke and one pottell of Clarett wine at	iij s. iiij d.
more geven vnto the Cooke at the same dynner by the appoyntment of the Aldermen	ij s.
more paide vnto Roberte Kelly at the same dynner for musicke and at night	iiij s.
more geven to widdow barlow for Candlelight at our meetinge the same daye	ij d.
more geven vnto dauid wright	iiij d.
more geven vnto Thomas Hough	iiij d.

...

paide for the sixe gleaves the xvth feabruarye 1614 beinge of a greater & Larger Sise and biggnes then the haue bene heretofore & of a new stampe	vj s.
more spente at the bringinge of them home	xij d.

f 81v

...

[paide for harrye leeynes and will*ia*m huntington vpon thursday at shrovetyde they beinge absent at the drinkinge	xij d.]
paid to george kelly the same daye	ij s.
paid to Roberte Kellye the same daye	iij s.
paid for one [ti] pottell of sack the same day	ij s.
given to Thomas hough the same daye	iiij d.
paid at an overplushe vpon the same Thursday at Shrovetide at an overplushe at the same drinkinge	vij s. vj d.

...

32, 38–9/ thursday at shrovetyde, same Thursday at Shrovetide: *23 February 1614/15*

f 82

…

Midsomer Charge 23. Iune 1615

Inprimis paide for one payer of stockinge for the boye that did Ryde	xij d.
paid for his shooes	xx d.
paide for Rybyne for his shoe tyes	vj d.
paide for poyntes	ij d.
paide & spent at Iohnsons w*i*thout the barres	iij s.
paide to woodcocke the Cryer	vj d.
paide for the boyes gloves	x d.
paide to lame sydall	iiij d.
Given to the prisoners at the Castell	xij d.
Geven to the prisoners at the northgate	xij d.
Geven to three men that did leade the boye	xviij d.
paid for seacke	ij s. vj d.
paid for musicke	iiij s.
paid for mendinge of our banner	xiiij d.

…

paide at an over plushe at our bankett at the watch	xiiij s.

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 45* *(5 July–5 July)*

…

geuen to the bearebruers in fishe & monye Against midsomer	x s.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 94v *(25 March 1615–25 March 1616) (Charges)*

…

Item paide for stockinges and shooes for the Childe vppon Midsomer Eve	iiij s.
Item paide for gloues and shooe tyes for the Childe	xvj d.
Item paide for a quart of Clarrett wyne at the dressinge of the Childe	viij d.
Item giuen to Mr duttons man for dressinge the horse	iiij d.
Item giuen to two footemen to Attend the Boy	viij d.
Item spente at the Barrs	iiij d.
Item giuen to the Cryer	iiij d.
Item spent and giuen to Sibdall a poore man at Trinite Church	iiij d.
Item giuen to the prisoners in the Castle and the Northgate	viij d.

Item paide to the Musicke	xviij d.
Item paide for wyne at the Banquett on Midsomer Eve	viij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
f [144v] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

Inprimis payd [for] to the Musitians at o*ur* feaste vpon St Lukes day	iij s. iiij d.
…	
Item payd for the Childes hose who ridd at Midsomer	xij d.
Item for his shoes	xiiij d.
Item for his gloves	vj d.
Item to the Musitians	ij s. vj d.
Item payd At the Barres Castle and the Northgate	xij d.
Item for the Banquett	vij s.
Item for a pottle of Clarett Wyne and a quarte of Sack	ij s. iiij d.

…

Quarter Sessions Presentments CCALS: ZQSF 63/33
single sheet

St Maries Warde wherof Mr Thomas Thorpe is Alderman

…

The pavemente of the hie streete in hanbruge from the vpper ende from Edward Smythes doare vnto the mayepowle. decayde in verie many places As also in Browmfeild Lane vnto the Blew stonne

Billa vera

c 1615

AC ***Deeds and Customs Concerning Chester*** BL: Harley MS 2150
f 202*

…

sheriff 1615

to Iasp*er* gillam for 4 garlands for harness men	4 s.
to the 4 men that carried the Armor	4 s.
gloues for harness men	xvj d.

…

1615–16

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1
f 331v *(20 October)*

...

°Alsoe Plaiers to be allowed to plaie in the comon Hall nor in the night after vj^{e} of the Clock in the eveninge°

Moreover at the same Assemblie Considerac*i*on was had of the Comon Brute and Scandall w*hi*ch this Citie hath of late incurred and sustained by admittinge of Stage Plaiers to Acte their obscene and vnlawfull Plaies or tragedies in the Comon Hall of this Citie thereby Convertinge the same, beinge appointed and ordained for the Iudiciall hearinge and determininge of Criminall offences, and for the solempne meetinge and Concourse of this howse, into a Stage for Plaiers and a Receptacle for idle p*er*sons. And Consideringe likewise the many disorders w*hi*ch by reason of Plaies acted in the night time doe often times happen and fall out to the discredit of the governm*en*t of this Citie and to the greate disturbance of quiet and well disposed People, and beinge further informed that mens s*er*vantes and apprentices neglectinge their M*aste*rs busines doe Resorte to Innehowses to behold such Plaies and there manie times wastfullie spende thar M*aste*rs goodes ffor avoidinge of all w*hi*ch inconveniences It is ordered that from hensforth noe Stage Plaiers vpon anie pretence or color Whatsoever shalbe admitted or licenced to set vp anye Stage in the said Comon Hall or to acte anie tragedie or Commedie or anie other Plaie by what name soever they shall terme hit, in the said Hall or ‸⌜in⌝ anie other Place w*i*thin this Citie or the Lib*er*ties therof in the night time or after vj^{e} of the Clocke in the eveninge.

Petition of George Cally, Musician, to the Mayor and Council
CCALS: ZAF 10/53
f [2v]

Ciuitas Cestr*ie*

To the Right Wor*shi*pp*fu*ll Thomas Throppe maior of the Cittie of chester
the Aldermen sheriff*es* sheriffspeeres and Common Counsell assembled

The humble Peticion of George Callie shewinge/

That the Peticion*er* was borne and received his education w*i*thin the said Cittie, and by your Wor*shi*pps especiall favors was ad⟨..⟩tted into the lib*er*ties of the same Cittie and made a free member thereof, and sithence received and approoved of to bee the Citties Waite and as the servant of the said Cittie to haue the rule and especiall gou*er*ment of the same Companie, beinge five in nomber

That the Peticion*er* hath heretofore and at his presente professed musicke and the arte and facultie of teachinge to daunce and by the practice thereof and his owne diligence hath not onelie manteigned himself his wife Children and familie w*hi*ch are Tenn in number at the least but hath allso obtained & p*ro*cured a good respecte and estimacion from men of the best sort & gen*er*all fashion truelie sensible and respectiue of the like faculties/

That one Iohn ffarrar ‸⌜Thomas Squier Richard Bell and Nicolas Webster⌝ a meere strangers vnto the Cittie [doth] ⌜haue⌝ of late intruded theimself into the Companies & societies of seu*er*all p*er*sons in the said Cittie, and doth arrogate vnto himself the said arte of dauncinge & the teachinge thereof ⌜and the science of musicke to ther distaste & greatt dislike of d⟨…⟩g⟨..⟩⌝ to the wronge & preiudice of the peticion*er* (as hee conceaueth), & to the incoragement & evill example of others/

> The Peticion*er* doth therefore most humblie desire & beseech your Wors*hi*pps that as hee is your Wors*hi*pps servant and a free Citizen of the Cittie hee maie receiue your fauorable respecte and Countenance & that the said ffarrar & all others maie in such case bee discouraged & all altogether suppressed from ye p*ro*fesion & practice of the arte & facultie afforesa*id*
>
> ⟨…⟩ blie of the said Cittie and the peticion
> ⟨…⟩

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff 36v–7 *(25 November–25 November)*

Midsomer accompt*es*

…	
paid to mr holmes for dressinge the banner w*hi*ch he alledged was in the default of w*illia*m hutchins & Rondell higgenson	vj s.
more paid to mr holmes for kepinge the banner accordinge to Custom and is to p*er*forme the keping of it during his lief for xij d. a yeare, the same being brought to him w*i*thin A day after Midsomer watch	xij d.
…	
paid for a payer of stocking*es* for the Child	ij s. vj d.
pa*id* for a payer of shoes for the Child & for Riboning	vj d. |
pa*id* for a payer of gloves for the Child	xv d.
spent at dressinge the Child as form*er*ly hath bene allowed	ij s.
spent on p*ro*uiding a horse for the Child and for other necessaries as form*er*ly hath bene allowed to other steward*es*	xviij d.
geuen for Mvsick vpon Midsomer even	v s.
paid for beare to the Companie & the Men	v s.

21/ ⟨...⟩: *entire last line faded*

pa*i*d for bread and Cheese	vj s.
pa*i*d for Wyne	ij s.
pa*i*d for apples prunes Comfett*es* & other necessarie p*ro*uici*o*n for the Companie as form*er*lie allowed	xx d.
geuen to the Men that lede the Child*es* horse	xxij d.
geuen to the cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the prison*ers* at the Castell	vj d.
geuen to the prison*ers* at the northgate	vj d.
paid to the drawers of dee more then they allowed for a salmon	ij s. x d.

…

Bowyers’, Fletchers’, Coopers’, and Stringers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/32/4

f 16 *(13 January 1615/16–13 January 1616/17) (Disbursements)*

…

Midsomer accompt*es*.

first for beare	iiij s.
for bread	ij s.
for musick	xx d.
spent at henry phillipes	ix d.
geuen to Siddall	ij d.
to Rondle Iuett	ij d.
to the Castell	iiij d.
to the Northgate	vj d.
at dressing the child	iij d.
for point*es*	iij d.
for Riboning	vj d.

…

f 16v

…

geuen to [Rob] the Musicion*ers* at Robert Nicholas dinner	ij s.
spent at the same tyme	viij d.
for dressing the Child*es* horse	vj d.
for horse bread	iiij d.
paid to mr holmes for dressing the flag and the staffe & for keping of the same	ij s.
to twoo foote men that led the child*es* horse	xvj d.
for a payer of gloves for the Child	ix d.
spent for berrag of the child*es* clothes	iiij d.

…

for a payer of shoes	xviij d.
for nvtes & prunes	x d.

…

for stocking*es* for the child	xxij d.
for Cheese	ij s. viij d.

. . .

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4
ff 6–7 *(11 November–11 November)*

. . .

Inprimis payde the xiijth daye of November 1615 at Iohn Iohnsons dynner for wine	iiij s.
more geven to the cooke the same tyme	ij s.
more geven vnto Roberte kelly for musicke	ij s. vj d.

. . .

paid for our gleeves	⟨.⟩ |
payde to the waytemen at shroftyde	ij s.
payde vnto Thomas hough	iiij d.
paid to Roberte Kelly	ij s.

. . .

mydsomer	Inprimis paide for one payer stockeng*es* gloves and poyntes for the boye	ij s. v d.
	paid for his shooes	xiiij d.
	paid for shooe tyes and silk Reben for ther horse heade	ix d.
	paide for the loone of Ahat for the boye	vj d.
	Spente at the barres	xviij d.
	Geven to the Cryer	vj d.
	Geven to will*iam* Siddall and apoore man	vj d.
	Geven to the prisoners at the Castell and Northgate	ij s.
	Geven vnto hugh Richardson by the appoyntm*ent* of the two Aldermen and the Companye the some of	v s. |
	Geven to a man for bringe the horse that the boye Ryde one and for goeing w*ith* vs about the towne	xij d.
	Geven to two men for tendinge the boye	xij d.
	Geven to Roberte kelly for musick	iiij s.
	paide for one firken of doble beere	iij s. vj d.
	paide for white bread and Cakes	xij d.
	payde for mendinge of our banner and silke	vj d.
	paide for mendinge the staffe	ij d.

. . .

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1
p 46* *(3 July–3 July)*

. . .

geuen to the beare bruers	x s.

. . .

Innkeepers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 13/1

f [31] *(14 June)*

...

An enlargement of an order for Attendance on Midsom*er* Eve

Item fforasmuch as at divers tymes heretofore Many of the Bretheren of our Companie have not given theire Attendance w*i*th theire Watchmen vpon Midsomer Eve Although divers orders to that end have hereto fore bene made Therefore it is now at this present Meetinge ordered and agreed vpon by the greater p*ar*te of the Companie now present, That all the Bretheren who doe not excercise or follow any other Trade w*i*thin this Citie, aswell those that are free of other Companies, as those that are free [asw] onelie of this Companie shall w*i*th theire Watchmen everie Midsomer Eve, Attend the Alderm*en* and Steward*es* for the tyme beinge duringe the whole tyme of the Watch And if any Brother shall himself be absent from the said watch he shall forfeite to the Companie the somme of ij s., and euerie Alderm*an* that shall be Absent to forfeit the somme of – iij s. iiij d. (They and euerie of them haveinge noe lawfull Cause to the Contrarie) And euerie brother That shall want his watchman to forfeite the somme of – xij d.

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 96 *(25 March 1616–25 March 1617) (Disbursements)*

...

Item paid for stockinges for ye Childe vppon midsomer eue	ij s.
Item paid for stockinges for ye same Childe	iij s. iiij d.
Item paid for gloues for ye Childe	xij d.
Item spent in wyne and sugar at ye dressinge of ye Childe	viij d.
Item paid for mendinge of ye Banner	vj d.
Item paide for Musicke	ij s. vj d.
Item spente at Henry Phillps w*i*thout ye Barrs	vj d.
Item spente at The Aldermans house	vj d.
Item giuen to ye Cryer at ye Barrs	iiij d.
Item giuen to ye prisoners at the Castle	iiij d.
Item giuen to Siddall a poore man	ij d.
Item giuen to ye prisoners at ye Northgate	iiij d.
Item giuen to two men for leadinge ye horse	viij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2

p 10 col 2 *(11 June)*

...

It is ordered that the Company shall meete at Alderman Salisburies house vppon Midsomer Eue before the Watch accordinge to Antient Custome And after the same watch to repayre to Steward Beedulphs house to the Banquett

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book

CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2
pp 83–4 *(3 May 1616–2 May 1617)*

...

midsomer watch

paide for beere at wilson howse at the barrs before the watch at midsomer	xij d.
payde vnto the Crier for Callinge the Companye	vj d.
Geven to olde Siddall. a poore Lame man	vj d.
Geven to the prisoners at the Castell	ij s.
Geven to the prisoners at the Northgate	ij s.
Geven by the Companyes Appoyntm*en*t to apoore man	ij d.
Geven vnto two men that attended the boye	xij d.
payde for musicke	vj s. viij d.
payde for a quarte of wine and suger sente to m*aste*r Mayor by mr drinkwaters appoyntm*en*t	viij d.
payde for two payer of gloves for the Children	xx d.
payde for a Collor for the boye	xij d.
payde for one dossen of poyntes for the boye	vj d.
payde for two payer of Shooes for the Children	ij s. viij d.
payde for two payer of hoose for them	ij s. viij d.
payde for two yardes of sylke Rebyn for shoe tyes	xij d.
payde for apayer of garters for the boye	xviij d.
payde for ayarde of Rebyn for the horse head	vj d.
payde to the two men that attended the Ladye	xij d.
payde for two payer of gloves for them	xij d.
For the Banquett/	
vij li. of pruines	xviij d.
more one q*uarte*r of Sinomonde	iiij d.
more j li. of Suger	xviij d. |
more j li. 2 q*uarte*r of Marmalatt at	ij s.
more j li. ½ of Conseates at	iij s.
more for Wafers	ij s.
more for Cakes	ij s.
more for Cheries	xiiij d.
more for. Wall Nutt*es*	vj d.
more for two quartes of seacke	ij s.
more for beere	ij s. iiij d.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [146] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

...

payd vpon St Lukes ‸⸢for⸣ ij pottls Sake & one potle Clarret	v s. iiij d.
payd for musike the same daye	iij s. iiij d.

...

payd on mydsomer Eve for all things Concerning the boye horse and musik	viij s. ij d.
payd for the bankett	vij s.
To the Cryer ‸⸢on mydsomer Eve⸣	vj d.
given at the Castle and northgat	viij d.
for Ale and wyne on mydsomer Eve	iij s.

...

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSE 13/25

f [1] *(29 June)*

Taken before the mayor

...

Richard Cokley borne in London and nowe dwellinge at Namptwiche where he hath for the moste p*ar*te Continued with his grandmother exa*min*ed said vpon fridaie was seavennighte this ex*aminat* Came to this Citie intendinge to get some money of Certaine gent*lemen* duringe the faire time for makinge them pastime by singinge dancinge & other imaginarie slaights w*hi*ch he vseth, and had his lodginge at Chatertons the Pip*er*, with two other pip*ers* viz. ffrancis willson and [Thomas Cowp*er*] ⸢Willson⸣ and vpon wednesdae laste this ex*aminat* & the sad Cowp*er* went to the Lotterie, and saithe that after that this ex*aminat* had gone from the lottere hose, & goinge throughe the Eastegate, vpon the thursdae folowinge one Peter Archer ‸⸢as he hath harde⸣ Came to this ex*aminat* & asked him for the said [Cowp*er*] ⸢Willson⸣ wherunto this ex*aminat* answered that he was gone home vpon the wednesdaie before, & therevpon told this ex*aminat* that he had his purse w*ith* v li. in money piked out of his pocket, & did suspecte this ex*aminat* to haue stollen the same, & brought this ex*aminat* befor *Maste*r Maior who therevpon Comitted

---

22/ Richard: *illegible word written through* R
24/ fridaie was seavennighte: *21 June 1616*
27/ two: *blotted; probably an alteration*
28/ wednesdae laste: *26 June 1616*
29/ Cowp*er*: *for* Willson
31/ thursdae folowinge: *27 June 1616*
33/ answered: *3 minims in MS*
34/ he: *altered from* his
35/ haue: *1 minim in MS*
36/ Comitted: *5 minims in MS*

him, but denieth that he doth know whether the s*ai*d Archer had his purse picked or not or whoe did pike the same
(signed) Thom*as* Throppe Maior
(signed) Will*ia*m Aldersey

Complaint of Richard Grosvenor Jr and William Barlowe v. William Nevett et al TNA: PRO STAC 8/156/22

mb [2]* *(6 March)*

...

...he the saied will*ia*m Nevett at or about the first daie of Iune nowe last past in this p*re*sent thirtenth yeare of yo*ur* Ma*ies*ties most happie raigne ou*er* yo*ur* Realme of England did vnlawfullie and Maliciouslie Confederate and Combine himselfe w*i*th one will*ia*m Iohn will*ia*m Ellice Allen, Iohn william, Roger Gryffith, and william Eaton and diu*er*s other p*er*sons to the nomber of Twentie whose names yo*ur* subiect*es* doe not knowe, and whose names yo*ur* subiect*es* doe humblie pray they may be licensed and allowed to inserte into this bill of Complainte and informac*i*on as Respondant*es* when they shall gett notice of the same, and the saied will*ia*m Nevett, will*ia*m Iohn will*ia*m, Ellice Allen, Iohn will*ia*m, Roger Gryffith, will*ia*m Eaton and the rest of the saied Confederates did often times in the saied moneth of Iune in this saied present thirtenth yeare of yo*ur* ma*iesties* raigne vnlawfullie meete and assemble themselves ‸⌜and⌝ at the instance request and instigac*i*on of the saied will*ia*m Nevett did vnlawfullie and vndulie devise and Conspire how and by what meanes they might kill and slay yo*ur* saied subiect will*ia*m Barlowe, and beate hurte and wound yo*ur* saied subiecte Richard Grosvenor, And the saied will*ia*m Nevett and the rest of the saied Confederates well knowinge, that yearelie, vpon the xxiiijth daie of Iune a greate ffaire is kepte in the Cittie of Chester, and that vpon the xxiijth daie of Iune beinge the daie next before the ffaire and in the eve*n*inge of the same daie diu*er*s pagent*es* and shewes are yearelie made in the ‸⌜saied⌝ Citty of Chester, w*hi*ch are Co*m*enlie Called the Midsom*er* watch, and that by reason thereof greate Multitudes of people doe allwaies Come and resorte vnto the saied Citty of Chester yearelie vpon the saied xxiijth daie of Iune. and further knowinge and vnderstandinge, that yo*ur* saied subiecte Richard Grosvenor would vpon the xxiijth daie of Iune nowe last past and in this saied p*re*sent xiijth yeare of yo*ur* Ma*iesties* raigne Come to the saied Citty of Chester, and that yo*ur* saied subiecte william Barlowe would then and there attend yo*ur* saied subiecte Richard Grosvenor, they the saied will*ia*m Nevett, will*ia*m Iohn will*ia*m, Ellice Allen, Iohn william, Roger Gryffithe, will*ia*m Eaton, and the rest of the said Confederates did fynallie and vnlawfullie determine Conclude Conspire plott and agree that ‸⌜they⌝ the saied Confederat*es* would vpon the saied xxiijth daie of Iune nowe last past and in the saied xiijth yeare of yo*ur* Ma*iesties* raigne in vnlawfull and riotouse sorte assemble themselves & meete altogeather at Chester arrayed, armed, and weaponed w*i*th longe pike staves, swordes, dagers, and other weapons and that then and there they the saied Confederates would devise som*me* Coloureable occasion to quarrell w*i*th yo*u*r subiect*es* and would then and there slay kill and murther yo*u*r saied subiecte will*ia*m Barlowe and would assault ‸⌜wounde⌝ and hurte yo*u*r saied subiecte Richard Grosvenor if he should offer to defend or helpe yo*u*r saied subiecte will*ia*m Barlowe…

1616–17

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/33

mb [2] *(11 October–10 October) (Payments)*

…

Item paied the xxvjth daie of ffebruary 1616. by the appoyntment of M*aste*r Maior to Mighell Iones and Richard Ince being Steward*es* of the Sadlers towards their bell	iiij s.

…

Item pade to Roger Guest for drum*m*inge on Shrove tewsday	xij d.
Item paied to the keeper of the Rood dee, the sixt daie of marche for [takinge] downe the pales & for settinge of them vp agayne	xvj d.

…

Item paide the xxj of Aprill 1617 for a banquett vpon Blake munday by mr Green	vx s.
Item paide to Roger Guest the xxiij of Aprill 1617. for druminge on St George day	xij d.

…

mb [2d]

…

Item paied the xxvij. of maie 1617. to Nicholas hallwood toward the settinge forthe of the Gyant*es* & showe against midsomer	ij li. iij s. j d.

…

Item paied to Thomas wealch the younger for Carrieng the Citties auntient ‸⌜at the watch⌝	ij s. vj d.
Item paied to Nicholas hallwood and Robert Thornley by the appoyntment of m*aste*r maior the 17. of Iulie 1617.	xxij s. 8 d.

…

19/ Shrove tewsday: *4 March 1616/17*

25/ Blake munday: *21 April 1617*

mb [3]

. . .

Item paide *Maste*r Ald*erman* Litler and Mr Rutten for xiiij yardes and ahalf of Clothe to make the waytemen gownes and the boyes Cloakes at viij s. p*er* yarde	j li. xvj s.

. . .

A **Mayors List 21** Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library: MSS 05289

f [33v] *(11 October–10 October)*

. . .

This yeare the maior Caused vppon Midsomer euen the divell to ride before the companye of the butchers, w*i*th other divels leadinge of him, as alsoe the woman w*i*th Cuppes and Cannes before the inhouldiers, w*i*th other divells leadinge of them w*i*th other toyes in the like nature w*hi*ch hath bin layd downe to my remembrance 16 or 17 yeares by grave and wise magistrates, that went before, and now sett vp this yeare by this maior to the greate dislike of them w*hi*ch are well disposed both Meinesters and People./

. . .

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

f [40] *(23 November–23 November)* *(Disbursements)*

. . .

payd [for] ^⌜to⌝ musick at *Maste*r Sheriffe Eatons at our dynn*er* there by the consent of the companie	v s.

. . .

ff [40v–1]

payd for a Samon more then iij s. iiij d. which the drawers in dee allowe	ij s. viij d.
payd to mr holmes for keeping the banner for on yeare	xij d.

mydsom*er* accomptes.

for a payre of shoes for the Child and rybbening	xx d.
for a payre of hoose for the Child	ij s. viij d.
for a payre of gloves for the Child	xv d.
spent at dressinge of the Child as form*er*lie hath beene allowed	ij s.
payd and layd out in provyding of a horse and other necessaries for the Child, as hath beene allowed to oth*er* steward*es*	xviij d.
geven for musick vppon mydsom*er* even	v s.
for beere vppon mydsom*er* even for the Companie & theire men	v s.

for bread & Cheese	vj s.
for wyne	ij s.
for apples prunes comfett*es* and other necessarie provic*i*on for the companie as form*er*lie hath beene allowed	xx d.
given to [fo] three men to leade the Childes horse	xxij d.
given to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
given to the p*ri*soner*s* at the Castle	vj d. |
given to the p*ri*soner*s* at the northgate	vj d.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29 ff [4–4v]* *(13 January 1616/17–13 January 1617/18) (Disbursements)*

…

midsomer	Item paide vnto mr hoolmes. for our flagg	xij d.
	Item paide for apayer of stocking*es* and shooes for the boy	ij s. vj d.
	Item paide for Rebyn	ix d.
	Item paid for horse bread	iiij d.
	Item paid for apayer of gloves for the boye	x d.
	Item paid for poyntes	iij d.
	Item paid for two payer of gloves for the two men that did attende the horse.	xij d.
	Item paid to aboye for dressinge the horse	ij d.
	Item paid for two pounes of pruines	v d.
	Item paid for Suger	ij d.
	Item paid for wall Nutt*es*	v d.
	Item paid for Cheese	iij s.
	Item paide for bread	iij s. vj d.
	Item paid for beere	iiij s.
	Item paid for the loone of Ahatt for the boye	xij d.
	Item paid for Musicke	ij s. vj d.
	Item paide for apayer of gloves. w*hi*ch were geven to mr haddocke	xij d. |
	paid for drinke at the barres	vj d.
	paid to the Cryer	iiij d.
	Geven to will*ia*m Siddall alame man	ij s.
	Geven to Rondall Iewett	iij d.
	Geven to the prisoners of the Castell.	iiij d.
	Geven at the Northgate	vj d.
	paide to Thomas Greiffyth gloves w*hi*ch was vnpaid the yeare paste	iiij d.

payde for one pottell of Clarett wyne. at our banquett	xij d.

...

paide at Thomas waylshes dynner for one pottell of Seacke	ij s.
paide to Roberte kelly for muscke the same tyme	ij s. vj d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 10 *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

...

Rec*eived* of Thomas Ryder for his fyne for beinge absent vpon midsomer even & his man alsoe	vj d.

...

f 11v *(Disbursements)*

...

Given vnto Roberte Kelly at our Ald*erman* sales	ij s. vj d.
Given vnto Thomas Hough	iiij d.

...

paide for our gleaves at shrofetyde	vj s.
paid to the berag of the gleaves	ij s.
paid to george kelly for musicke at shrovetyd	iij s.
Given to the stewardes of the Iorneymen for theire attendance at shrofetyd	xij d.

...

f 12

...

paide for Aquarte of seacke at m*aste*r Maiors Taverne when wee seased vpon two paier of childrens shooes at Thomas fletcher the Cobler	xij d.

...

f 12v

...

midsomer./ paid for apayer of stocking*es* for our boye	xvj d.
paid for silke Rebyn	vj d.
paid for poyntes	vj d.

6/ muscke: *for* musicke

21, 23, 25/ shrofetyde, shrovetyd, shrofetyd: *2–4 March 1616/17*

paid for the loone of Ahatt for the boye	vj d.
Spent at Iohnsons w*it*hout the barres	ij s.
Geven to the Cryer at the barrs	vj d.
Geven lame sydall	iiij d.
Geven at the northgate	xij d.
Geven at the Castell	xij d.
Geven mr Glasiers man for leadinge the horse	vj d.
paid for wine at our bankett	ij s. vj d.
Geven to Roberte kelly for musicke	iiij s.
Geven to two men for tendinge the horse	xij d.
paid for Rebyn for the horse	vj d.

...

f 13

paid for the boyes shooes	xvj d.
Spent at Alderman young*es*	xx d.
Spent vpon an over plushe at our banquett	xvj s. v d.
Spent more at Alderman young*es* vpon gorges daye	ij s. vj d.

...

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 47*

...

geuen to bearebruers at midsomer	vij s.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 98 *(25 March 1617–25 March 1618) (Disbursements)*

...

Item paid for paintinge the staffe of the Banner against midsomer Eue for the watch	xij d.
Item paid for a paire of Bootes for the Child	iij s. iiij d.
Item paid for Ribboninge for the Child	xiij d.
Item for wyne bestowed at the dressinge of the Boy	vj d.
Item for a paire of gloues for the Child	xij d.
Item giuen to the Cryer at the Barres	iiij d.
Item giuen to the prisoners of the Castle and the Northgate	viij d.
Item giuen to Sibdall a poore man	ij d.
Item giuen to Three men to Attend the Child	xiiij d.
Item paid to the Musicke	ij s.

Item paid for three quartes of wyne for the Company at the Banquett vpon Midsomer Eue	xviij d.
Item for Beere bestowed vpon the Watchmen on Midsom*er* Eue at Alderman Salisburies house	xij d.

. . .

Joiners’, Carvers’, and Turners’ Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2

p 14* *(14 June)*

. . .

It is Agreed that the Company shall meete at the Alderman Salisburies house accordinge to Au*n*tient Custome euery Brother w*i*th his watchman And the Banquett to bee at Steward Calcotts house euery brother to pay iiij d. a peece as hath bene vsuall

. . .

p 15 *(2 July)*

. . .

Mr Heidocke hath laid downe vj d. for his man Cominge shorte of the watch vppon Midsomer Eue But by a generall Consente of the whole Company the same is giuen him agayne.

. . .

Mercers’, Ironmongers’, Grocers’, and Apothecaries’ Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 91 *(2 May 1617–8 May 1618)* *(Payments)*

. . .

Inp*rimis* ij p*ar*re of childers hose	iiij s. vj d.
It*em* ij p*ar*re of childers gloves	xvj d.
It*em* ayard 6 d. ribyne. ij skaynes yellow silke	viij d.
It*em* vpon too men. ij p*ar*re gloves	xij d.
It*em* ap*ar*re of silke garters	ij s.
It*em* to the officers. at midsomer	ij s.
It*em* to mr warberton the macebearer	ij s.
more. ij li. Cumfett*es* at 2 s. p*er* li. is	iiij s.
more j li. Suger at	xx d.
more one ounce Synamon at	iiij d.
more payde for wafers	ij s.
more for Stronge beere	iij s. iiij d.
more for 8 li. pruines	ij s.
more marmelate	ij s.
more for two yardes of Riban for shooe ties at	xij d.
more ½ li. p*re*serue *(blank)* at	xx d.

more one dossen broade poyntes	xvj d.
more for pynnes to dresse the girle	ij d.
more paide to wilson wife at the barrs	xij d.
more paide to the Crier at the barrs	xij d.
more geven to olde Siddall	vj d.
more geven vnto mr Rondall. Iewett	xij d.
more geven to the prisoners at the Castell	ij s. vj d.
more geven to the prisoners of the Northgate	ij s. vj d.
more paide for our Musicke	vj s. viij d.
more paide to three men to attende the Children	xviij d.
more paide for kakes	ij s.
more paide for fyttinge of the boyes dublett	vj d.
more paide for 4. quartes of Seacke and one quarte of Clarrett wine	iiij s. vj d.
more for two payer of Shooes	iij s.

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [148]* *(18 October–18 October)* *(Disbursements)*

...

It*em* shooes for the Child that rid	xiiij d.
It*em* gloues	viij d.
It*em* riband to hang iewels in	iiij d.
It*em* riband for the hors	vj d.
It*em* at dressing the Clid °quart Claret suger°	viij d.
It*em* to the musicke	ij s.
It*em* to iij men that tended the boy	iij s.
It*em* the bars Castle and Northgate	xiiij d.
It*em* for o*ur* banquet on midsom*er* eue	vij s.
It*em* strong beere	ij s.
It*em* q*ua*rte sacke and ij quart*es* Claret	ij s.

...

It*em* for o*ur* part of the rent of the phenix	xij d.

...

Inventory of James Dowson, Schoolmaster CCALS: WS 1617

mb [1] *(9 May)* *(In the dining street chamber)*

...

Item one paier of virginalls	xv s.

...

26/ Clid: *for* Child

Inventory of Robert Rutter, Draper CCALS: WS 1618

mb [1] *(14 May) (In the hall)*

…

Item one small paier of deske virginalls vj s. viij d.

…

1617–18

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/35

mb [3] *(10 October 1617–16 October 1618) (Payments)*

…

Item paied for takinge downe the pales at the roodee on Saynt Georges daie xij d.

Item paid the drum*me*r for carryinge the drum*me* y*a*t day xij d.

Item paied vnto Nicholas hallowed and william handcock for the Citties worke against midsomer Eve by m*aste*r maiors appoyntment the viij^t^ of maie 1618 xliij s. 4 d.

…

mb [4]

…

Item paied vnto Gest for druminge at midsomer watch xij d.

Item paide the xxvjth of Iune 1618 to the Steward*es* of the paynters for tryminge and settinge forth the Citties mount on midsomer Eve xxxvj s. 8 d.

…

Item paied to Thomas welch Coop*er* for Carringe the Citties fflagge or Ensigne on midsomer Eve ij s. vj d.

…

mbs [5–6]

…

Item paid to m*aste*r Alderman Litler the xxij. of december 1617 for xiiij yard*es* q*ua*rter & half a quarter of Broadecloth to make the waitemen gownes and the boyes Clokes at viij s. the yard v li. xv s.

…

Item paide vnto hamnett Bennett one of the Steward*es* of the Company of Sadlers on the xijth of ffebruary 1617 for the Augmentinge of the Bell for shrovetewsday by m*aste*r maiors appoyntment vj s. viij d.

40/ shrovetewsday: *12 February 1617/18*

Item paid to Roger Guest the drom*m*er that day	xij d. |
Item paide vnto two Laborers for takinge downe the pales at the roodee on Shrove twesday & for settinge them vp the same day	xij d.

…

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/4

p 135 *(25 November–25 December)*

…

It*em* to the wait*es* & other musike	iiij s.

…

p 136 *(25 December–25 March)*

…

It*em* paid to the wachman attending 3 night*es* vp*on* the may*o*r & sherives & for Arm*o*r for *ya*t purpose	ij s. vj d.

…

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

f [44] *(25 November–25 November) (Disbursements)*

…

Midsomer accompt*es*.

p*ai*d for a payer of shoes for the Child	xx d.
p*ai*d for a payer of hooes for the Child	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for a payer of gloves for the Child	ix d.
spent at dressing of the Child as form*er*ly hath been allowed	ij s.
p*ai*d and laid out in *pro*uidinge of a horse & other necessaries for the Child as hath beene allowed to other steward*es*.	xviij d.
geuen to the Mvsicion*er*s. vpon midsom*er* even	vj s.
p*ai*d for beare vpon midsomer even for the Companie and ther men	v s.
p*ai*d for bread and Cheese	vj s.
p*ai*d for wyne	ij s. iiij d.
p*ai*d for apples prunes Comfet*es* & other necessarie *pro*uici*o*n for the Companie as form*er*ly hath beene [p] allowed	xx d.

…

3/ Shrove twesday: *12 February 1617/18*

22/ shoes: *corrected from* hooes

f [44v]

geuen to three men that lead the Child*es* horse	xxij d.
geven to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geu to the prison*er*s at the Castell	vj d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the Northgate	vj d.

...

p*ai*d to mr holmes for keping the banner for on Yeare	xij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29

f [9] *(13 January 1617/18–13 January 1618/19)*

...

Inprimis paide the xiijth daye of Ianuarye Anno d*omi*ni 1617. for a gallon of wyne at the appoyntm*en*t of the Aldermen at the dynner of Iohn Tottye	ij s. viij d.
paide To Thomas williams and his companye for Musicke at the same dynner	ij s. vj d.

...

midsomer charge

paide for the Loone of the Childs hatt	xij d.
paide for one dozin of poynt*es* for the boye	iiij d.
paid for apayer of gloves for the boye	x d.
paide for two payers of gloves for the two men that lead the boyes horse	xvj d.
paid for apayer of shooes for the boye	xvj d.
paide for his stocking*es* and shoe tyes	xvij d.
paid for Rebin for the horse	vj d.
paid the Cryer	iiij d.
paid at the Castell and Northgate and to old sydall	x d.
Geven to Rondall Iewett	iiij d.
paid for musicke	ij s.
paid for beere and bread at our banquett	vj s. vj d.
paid for Cheese	ij s. iiij d.

...

f [9v]

paid for prvines	viij d.
paid for Apples	vj d.
paid for suger	ij d.

6/ geu: *for* geuen

paid for one quarte seacke and one quarte Clarrett	xx d.
…	
[paide vnto mr hoolmes painter for keepinge and new tryminge of our staffe w*hi*ch beares our flagg	iij s.]
…	
paide vnto mr hoolmes for repayreinge of our banner	vj s. x d.
…	

Cordwainers’ and Shoemakers’ Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 16v *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

…	
20 Iuly 1618 Rec*eived* of Thomas Ryder for his fyne for wanting his man one midsomer even	6 d.
Rec*eived* for his fine for working one midsom*er* day	3 d.
…	

f 18 *(Disbursements)*

…	
Inprimis payde the xjth daye of November Anno d*omi*ni 1617. beinge St m*ar*tens daye. vnto Roberte kelly and his companye for musicke	iiij s. iiij d.
…	

f 18v

…	
paide for our sixe gleaves	vj s.
paide to the berrage of them	viij d.
Spente at Iohn Androwes vpon gutteds daye in the Companye of the Sadlers	iiij d.
Spente at mr Buttons. vpon Ashewednesday when wee were disappoyntd of our drinking at the Comon hall by the drap*ers* then the Sadlers being all in Companye	ij s. iiij d.
paide to george kellye for musicke at shroftyde	ij s. vj d.
paide to Roberte kelly for musicke the same tyme & daye	iij s.
Spente at an over plushe the same daye at our drinkinge at mr Inc*es*	ij s.
paide to Thomas hough	iiij d.
paid for one pottell of seacke the same tyme	ij s.
…	

28/ gutteds daye: *12 February 1617/18*
30/ Ashewednesday: *13 February 1617/18*

f 19

	…	
	paide/ At that tyme the Companye did dyne at daniell Throppes for Musicke	xviij d.
	…	
	Spente when we wente to agree w*i*th mr hoolmes as conc*er*ninge the makeinge of our New banner to be fynished against midsomer 1618	xij d.
	paide for an Ellne of greene Taffyta for the banner	xiiij s. iiij d.
	paide for buckrom	viij d.
	…	
	paide vnto Roberte Kelly for musicke the 2th Iuly 1618 when foure brethren Came into our Companye	ij s.
	paide. vnto mr Rondall hoolmes painter: for makinge of Anew banner for the Companye against midsomer 1618	iij li. v s. 0 d.
	paide to the beriage of our new banner	xiiij d.
mydsom*er*	paid for Apayer of stocking*es* for the boye:	ij s.
	paid for his shooes	xvj d.
	paid for shoe. tyes	vj d.
	paid for Reben for the horse head	vj d.
	paid for the boyes gloves and poynt*es*	xiiij d.
	paid to the men that did at tende. the Child	xviij d.
	…	

f 19v

Spente At Iohnsons w*i*thout the barres	ij s. viij d.
paid to the: Cryer. at the barrs	vj d.
Geven to olde sydall	iiij d.
Geven to the prisoners of the Castell and Northgate	ij s.
paid to Roberte Kelly for our musicke	v s.
Geven to the man that brought Ahorse for our boye	xviij d.
paide at Anoverplushe. at our bankett vpon midsomer even ⌜and for wine⌝	xj s. ij d.
…	
paid for one pinte of wine at the dressinge of the Childe	iiij d.
…	

7/ conc*er*ninge: *3 minims for* nin *in* MS

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1
p 48*

...

geuen to the bearebruers	x s.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 100 *(25 March 1618–25 March 1619) (Disbursements)*

...

Impr*i*mis paid for a paire of shooes for the Child that did Ryde for the Company on Midsomer Eue	xvj d.
Item for a paire of stockinges	xiiij d.
Item paid for a paire of gloues	ix d.
Item paid for a paire of shooetyes and garters	vj d.
Item paid for a hatt	iij s. iiij d.
Item paid for a Ribbon for the horse head	iiij d.
It*e*m spent in wyne at the dressinge of the Child	viij d.
It*e*m spent vpon the Companye in Beere	iiij d.
It*e*m giuen to the Cryer at the Barrs	iiij d.
Item giuen to Sibdall a poore man	ij d.
Item giuen to the prisoners of of the Castle and the Northgate	viij d.
Item giuen to the Musitians that did Attend the Company on Midsomer Eue	iij s.
Item paid to three men to Attend the Child	xij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2
p 20 *(8 June)*

...

It is Agreed that the Company shall meete at Alderman Salisburies house vpon Midsomer Eue Accordinge to Antient Custome euerie brother w*i*th his Watchman And the Banquett to bee at William Pues house and euery brother to pay iiij d. a peece towards the same.

...

23/ of of: *dittography*

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book

CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 92 *(2 May 1617–8 May 1618) (Payments)*

...

paide to aboye at Rondall Inces that played some Trickes vj d.

...

pp 97–8 *(8 May 1618–7 May 1619)*

	li.	s.	d.
...			
At midsomer for watch			
Comphett*es* ij li. at	0	4	0
Suger j li. a	0	1	6
Synamonde two ounces at	0	0	8
Prunes xij li. at	0	2	6
Marmalott j li. j oz. at	0	2	0
Wett Suckett	0	1	0
Conseit*es* halfe apound at	0	1	8
Waffers	0	2	0
Stronge beere	0	6	0
j pottell of Sacke. 3. quartes of Clarett	0	4	0
payde for apayer of stocking*es* for the Ladye	0	3	0
payde for apayer of shooes for her	0	1	6
payde for Rybon for her shooes	0	0	4
payde for Rybon to tye her Iewells	0	1	0
payde for apayer of gloues for her	0	2	0
payde for Rybon for her horse head	0	1	0
payde the man that leade her horse and Caryed the Coolers	0	1	0
payde two men that held the Ladye	0	3	0
payde for 4. payer of gloves for the men	0	3	0
payde for apayer of gloves for the boye	0	0	6
payde for apayer of bootes for the boye	0	5	0
payde two men for atendinge the boye	0	2	0
Spente in beere at the barres at wilsons howse	0	1	0
Geven to the Crier at the barres	0	1	0 |
Geven to Siddall the Cobler	0	0	6
Geven to Randall Iewett	0	1	0
Geven to the prisoners of the Castell	0	2	0
Geven to the prisoners of the Northgate	0	2	0
Geven to the musicke	0	6	8

Geven them more for playinge to some of the Company that came in after the were payde	0	0	6
payde 3. men for watchinge the londoners at midsom*er* fayer	0	5	0

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/1
ff [150–50v] *(18 October–18 October)* *(Disbursements)*

…

It*em* for stuffe for the Childs breeches	iiij s. viij d.
It*em* for Cotton and the making	ij s. ij d.
It*em* for silvering	ij s.
It*em* for hose shooes and gloues for the Child	iij s. v d.
It*em* for gloues for the Aldermen & stuard*es*	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* for the banquet on midsomer eue	vij s.
It*em* for pottle sack and pottle Claret	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* ij pottles beere	viij d.
It*em* to the musicke	j s. vj d.
It*em* to S*ir* George Beuerlet man that led the horse	ij s. vj d. |
It*em* riband for the horse head	ij d.
It*em* for arsedine	ij d.
It*em* spent at dressing the Child	iiij d.
It*em* at the bars Castle and northgate and to a poore man	j s. iiij d.

…

Great Sessions Presentments E TNA: PRO CHES 24/114/4
mb [1] *(21 September)*

…

Georgius Cally de Ci*uitate* Cestr*ie* musicus
Rad*ulph*us Iameson in xl li. Sep*ar*atim ad Comp*ar*end*um*
de Brynn ⌜*proxima*⌝ & not to sell ale any more

…

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 66/50
f [2] *(17 October)*

…

°To be whipped openlie°

Thomas Coson a litle boy of the age of x^{en} yeres sonne of Thomas Coson Labourer exa*min*ed that about a fortnight agoe he Picked a ‸⌜womans⌝ purse at the Crose w*i*th xij d. int, & vpon saterday laste picked an other purse at

---

40/ saterday laste: *11 October 1617*

Iamess Battrich shop w*i*th x d. in it, & saeth that at the [laste bull baite he picked] Crowe dore he picked iiij s. 8 d. out of an other womans purse, whereof one was of a half Crowne peece w*hi*ch this ex*aminat*e gaue to one [Thom] Iohn ‸⌜Rob*ertes*⌝ [for vj d.] an other boy for vj d. in money to Chaunge…

Will of James Miller, Clerk CCALS: WS 1618

f [1v]* *(22 July; proved 28 July)*

…

It*e*m I bequeath to Iames Willding all my Latine bookes of Diuinity or oth*er* in Latine w*i*th all my songe bookes in Latine except my sett of Balladers w*hi*ch I giue to my daugh*ter* & ye sett of ffrench songes in a Case/ & w*i*t*h* oth*er* song bookes Iames Willding shall thinke ‸⌜most⌝ fitt for her…

…

Inventory of James Miller, Clerk CCALS: WS 1618

ff [1–1v] *(27 July)*

…

It*e*m lattin bookes bestowed vppo*n* Iames Willding & lattin Song bookes	xxx s. |
It*e*m All the English bookes histories Chronicles & Diuinity w*i*th a sett of Ballad bookes & french songes in a Case	x[⟨.⟩]l s.

…

1618–19

Assembly Book CCALS: ZAB 1

f 347v *(1 June)*

…

°fforties: their petic*i*on to ride on their foote Clothes at Midsom*m*er°

Allsoe att the Same Assemblye the Petyc*i*on preferred by some of the ffortie or Com*m*on Councell of the Cittie for and in the name of the reste Prayinge they mighte ryde vppon there fotclothes vppon Midsomer eve in the tyme of the Watche yearely. and ever after was by the whole Assemblye, for some Considerac*i*ons reiected and thought vnfitt to be graunted to the said petyc*i*on*er*s./

…

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/37

mb [3] *(16 October–15 October) (Payments and disbursements)*

…

Item paied more for Tenne yardes and ahalf of brode clothe for the Three Waytemens gownes at eight Shillinges the yarde	iiij li. iiij s.

Item paied for fiue yardes of Brode Clothe to make the Two boyes of the waitemen Cloakes and for seaven yardes of Brode cloth to make Adam and the night bell man gownes in all is xij. yardes at vij s. the yarde is	iiij li. iiij s.
. . .	
Item paid vnto hamnett Bennet and Thomas Williams ye steward*es* of the Sadlers to augment the Bell at Shrovetide Anno 1618	vj s. viij d.
. . .	

mb [4]

Item paied vnto Roger Guest for his drominge on Shrove Tewsday	xij d.
Item paid for takinge downe the pales against that daie and setting them vp	xvj d.
. . .	
Item paid vnto Peter Ince for two drum head*es* and for dressing it	v s. vj d.
. . .	
Item paid to Gest for mendinge the Corde of the drom	v d.
. . .	
Item paid to the paynters the xth of maie 1619 for the payntinge of the giant*es* &c at midsom*er*	xliij s. iiij d.
Item paid for the taking vp & setting downe of the pales at the roodye on St George*s* day	xvj d.
. . .	

mb [5]

. . .	
Item paid the 23 of Iune to Guest for druminge at the Watch	xij d.
. . .	
Item paied the painters for settinge forthe the maiors mounte	xxvj s. 8 d.
. . .	
Item paid Thomas Wealch the younger for Carrieng the Citties fflag at midsom*er*	ij s. vj d.
. . .	

14/ Shrove Tewsday: *9 February 1618/19*

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

ff [47–7v] *(27 November–27 November) (Disbursements)*

Midsomer accomp*tes*.

paid for a payer of shooes for the Child	xx d.
p*ai*d for a payer of hooes for the Child	ij s. vj d.
p*ai*d for a payer of gloves for the Child	ix d.
It*em* spent at dressing the child	ij s.
It*em* spent in p*ro*uiding a horse for the Child & for other necessaries	xviij d.
It*em* geuen to the Musicions vpon midsom*er* Even	vj s. |
It*em* p*ai*d for beare vpon midsom*er* even	v s.
It*em* p*ai*d for bread & Cheese	vj s.
It*em* p*ai*d for wynne	ij s. iiij d.
It*em* p*ai*d for apples & other thing*es*	xx d.
It*em* geuen to three men that led the Child*es* horse	xxij d.
It*em* geuen to the cryer at the barres	iiij d.
It*em* geuen to the prison*er*s at the castell	vj d.
It*em* geuen to the prison*er*s at the northgate	vj d.
…	
It*em* geuen to mr holmes. for kepinge the banner	xij d.
…	

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29

ff [13–13v] *(13 January 1618/19–13 January 1619/20)*

…

Mydsomer Charges/

payde for the Loone of the Childes hatt	xiiij d.
payd for one dozin poyntes	iiij d.
payde for his gloves	x d.
payde for two payer of gloves for the two men that leade the boyes horse	xij d.
payde for the boyes shooes	xviij d.
payde for his stocking*es* and shoe tyes	xx d. |
payde for Sylke Rebyn for the horse heade	iiij d.
payde the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
payd at the Castell Northgate and to olde sydall	x d.
payde for our Musicke	xx d.
payd for beere and bread at our banqueitt	vj s. viij d.
payde for Cheese	ij s. vj d.
payde for prvines	viij d.
payde for Aples	vj d.
payde for suger	ij d.

payd for one pinte seacke and a quarte of Clarett	xij d.
Geven vnto greiffeith Iones apayer of gloves	vj d.

...

AC

Linen-Drapers' Petition to Sever Companies in a Guild

BL: Additional MS 16179
ff 25–6 *(13 February)*

...

The Linnendrapers by petition set forth that they have been an ancient Company by the name of the Ald*ermen* Stewards and Brethren of the Company of Linnendrapers by prescripc*i*on and also confirmed by Charter from the Citty 6. Ed*ward* 6. and they so continued till the Year 1603. That by the Order of ‸⌜the⌝ then Mayor and Iustices the Bricklayers were admitted to ioyn with them in setting forth the pageants for Midsummer Shew but by many Years experience have been found troublesome and unserviceable to their Company many of them being very poor and unable to contribute to the defences of the priveledges of the s*ai*d Company and therefore desired that the Bricklayers might be seperated from them and that the Pet*ition*ers might be restored to their ancient priveledges of being a distinct Company the House being satisfied of the truth thereof and that the Bricklayers made many | Irregular Elecc*i*ons and disorders in their Company. Ordered that they be Secluded and debarred from being any longer Members of the s*ai*d Company of Linnendrapers or meeting with them as such and that the Linnendrapers be a Company of themselves as they have antiently been.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 22v *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

...

20 August 1619	Thomas Ryder fyned for his absence and his mans one mydsomer even	12 d.

...

f 26 *(Payments)*

...

Inprimis payed the xjth daye of November 1618 after our meetinge at Iohn Ryders dynner w*hi*ch he made vnto the Companye at mr Inces howse for one gallon of seacke	iiij s.
more the same for one pottell of Clarett wine	xvj d.
more payde for stronge ale	iij s. vj d.
more Geven vnto the Cooke that dressed dynner	ij s. vj d.
more Geven vnto Roberte kellye for Musicke	iiij s.

more Geven vnto Bruse the piper	xij d.
more Geven vnto Thomas hough	iiij d.
…	
paid vnto Richard Stockes for makinge Irons for our banner in the meeting house	xviij d.
…	

ff 27–7v

	…	
	Spente. as concerninge the busynesse. aboute the drapers	xx d.
Shrovetide	paid for sixe Cleaves	vj s.
	paid to the berrage	viij d.
	Geven to Thomas hough	iiij d.
	paid vnto George kellye for musicke	ij s. vj d.
	paid to Roberte kellye for Musicke the same tyme	ij s. viij d.
	paid for one pottell seacke. and one pottell Clarett wyne the same daye	iij s.
	…	

Mydsomer Charge

paide for the Loone of Ahatt for our boye	vj d.
paide for his gloves	xij d.
paide for his stocking*es*	ij s.
paide for one dozin silke poynt*es*	xvj d.
paid for silk Ryben for his shooes	vj d.
paid for his shooes	xviij d.
paid for Ryben for the horse head	vj d.
paide vnto three men that Attended the boye	xviij d.
paid to mr hoolmes for keepinge of our banner	xij d.
paid vnto the man that brought the horse	xviij d.
paide at the dressinge of the boye for one pint wine	iij d.
paid at widdow Iohnsons. for breade & beere. for the Company	ij s. vj d. |
paid to the Crier at barrs	vj d.
paid to olde Sidall	iiij d.
Geven to the prisoners at Castell & Northgate	ij s.
paid for our Musicke	v s.
paide at Anoverplushe at our bankett	xij s. ix d.
pade for thre quartes of seacke	iij s.
…	

11m/ Shrovetide: *7–9 February 1618/19*

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 48*

…

geuen to the bearebruers	x s.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 101v *(25 March 1619–25 March 1620) (Disbursements)*

…

Imprimis paid for a paire of stocking*es* and garters for the Child vpon Midsomer Eve	xx d.
Item for gloues and Ribbonninge	xxj d.
Item for a dozen of poy*ntes*	iiij d.
Item paid to the Musitians	xx d.
Item paid for a paire of shooes for the Child	xiiij d.
Item given to the Cryer at the Barres	iiij d.
Item given to the Prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
Item given to Sibdall a poore man	ij d.
Item paid for a hatt for the Child	iij s. vj d.
Item paid to three men to Attend the Child	xij d.
Item spent in Wyne at the dressinge of the Child	viij d.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2

p 27 *(21 May)*

…

Alderm*an* Salisburie
steward Calcot
Edw*ard* Heidocke
[Robt] ⌈Will*am*⌉ ap Hugh
Rich*ard* Walker

all these haue denyed to Come to the Banquett that of Custome [h] hath Bene on midsomer Eue, And doe desire that the Cost in that kinde may hereafter be spared

…

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 105 *(7 May 1619–5 May 1620)*

…

It*em* payd for apayre of gloues for the boy	ix d.
It*em* to 3 me*n* for ffollowinge the horse w*ith* the boy	iij s.

29/ Heidocke: d *written over another letter*

It*em* payd for musicke	vj s. viij d.
It*em* to the prisoners in the northgatte & in the Castell	iiij s. [d.]
It*em* to siddall the Cobler	vj d.
It*em* j yard Ribin to the horse head	viij d.
It*em* j pere shoes for the boy	xvj d.
It*em* for Ribin for his shoes	vj d.
It*em* j pere hos for the boy	xvj d.
It*em* to the Crier at the barrs	xij d.
It*em* spent at Raph Wilsons house	xij d.
It*em* 3 pere gloues to the me*n* that ffollowed the horse at	xviij d.
It*em* to a ma*n* for waching at the londoners shopps	vj d.
It*em* to the Cunstable for bringing Garrett to the northgatte	xij d.

...

It*em* dj barrill bier	vij s.
It*em* waffers	ij s.
It*em* Cakes	ij s.
It*em* ij li. comffett*es*	iiij s.
It*em* j li. Marmelad	ij s.
It*em* dj li. Conseat*es*	xx d.
It*em* dj li. Wett suckett	xij d.
It*em* xij li. prunes for	ij s. vj d.
It*em* j pottell of sacke & j pottle Clared Wine by the appointm*en*t of the alderm*en*	iij s.
It*em* j li. suger	xviij d.
It*em* 2 oz Cinamon	viij d.

...

p 106

...

It*em* payd mr Holmes *per* mr Drinkwaters dire*cio*n for 2 bann*ers*	v li. vj d.

...

It*em* pa*i*d at Midsom*er* Aginse for the Lady shoes	xiiij d.
It*em* for apayre of hos for her	xviij d.
It*em* for Ribin for her shoes	vj d.
It*em* for a paire of gloues for her	xij d.
It*em* for 3 payre of gloues to 3. me*n* that did attend the lady	xviij d.
It*em* Ribin for her horse head	xij d.

It*em* for Ribin to tye her Iewells and Triming her head	xxij d.
It*em* to the ma*n* that leade [the] her horse & Carried the bann*er*	xij d.
It*em* payd 2 other me*n* that did attend the lady	ij s. vj d.
It*em* given a mayd that did attend the lady while she was in Towne and Came w*ith* her	xij d.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f [152] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

…

It*em* for gloues for the Ald*er*men and stuard*es* at midsomer	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* for hose shooes and gloues for the Child	iij s. x d.
It*em* for riben and shooeties	x d.
It*em* spent at dressing the Child	v d.
It*em* at the bars Castle and northgate	j s. 0
It*em* for the banquet on midsomer eue	vij s. 0
It*em* for a pottle of sacke and ij pottles Clarett	iiij s. 0
It*em* to the musick	ij s. vj d.
It*em* to the men that led the horse	j s. vj d.
It*em* for three pottles of beere	j s. 0
It*em* for loane of the hat and fether	vj d.

…

It*em* to william handcocke for gilding the little phenix	xvj d.
It*em* paied for o*ur* part of the rent of the phenix	j s.

…

Great Sessions Memorandum Concerning Bail TNA: PRO CHES 24/115/1

single mb *(5 April)*

Taken at Chester before Sir Thomas Chamberlain and Sir Henry Townsend

…

bail'	m*anucapcio* Thome lawrenson de Torp*er*ley husb*andman* about the death of Io*hn* Garratt pleg*ii*	George Cally de Civ*itat*e Cestr*ie* musicus Rad*ulph*us Iameson de Brynne	in xl li. sep*ar*atim ad comp*arendum* p*ri*mo p*ro*ximo & not to sell ale any more.

…

c 1619

A ***Rogers' Breviary*** CCALS: DCC 19
ff 36v–40v*

…

Now the Custom of the said Company of Drap*er*s was Aunchantly, after the balls offered by ye Shoemakers & sadlers & the ‸⌜foteball⌝ playe ended, to meete togeather all the 3. Companyes of drapers Shoemakers and sadlers, at the charge of the drapers in token of societie,

ye drap*er*s charges now:

But as this alteration. is more co*m*mendable soe the Charges to the wor*thie* Company of drapers is more Chargeible, for now the said drapers doe the same Shrouetueseday after the games be ended. they doe feast the maior & Aldermen in the Co*m*mon hall of the said Cittie, & the 2. Companies of Shoemakers & sadlers, w*i*th bread beare ij dayes & the iij day w*i*th abanquet:

The Drapers of the Cittie of Chester haueinge these homages done to them, they haue alsoe the forfeture if any neclect the same, beinge: x li.: of w*hi*ch they haue many anchant recoueries, and also yerely by those that neclecte the same homage as theire p*re*sident*es* doe shew:

The p*ro*clamation co*m*manded by ye maior of
Chester, yerely at the Rood dee, when the
people are assembled to see these exceseses
p*er*formed on Shrouetusday yerely:

A p*ro*clama*cion* on Shroue:tuseday:

Oes: Oes: Oes: The right wor*shipfu*ll: The Maior of the Cittie of Chester willeth and requireth and in his ma*ies*ties name straitely chargeth & Com*m*andeth | all. manner of persons of what degree or callinge soeuer he or they be, here this daye assembled for the comfort and recreation of his ma*ies*ties Subieckes. That they and euery of them obserue and keape his ma*ies*tis: hignes peace duringe the time the games be in playeinge vpon paine and perill that shall fall thereon &c:

Collation with BL: Harley MS 1948 *(1948)* ff 60–1: 5–17 Now … shew:] *for 1948 variant version see pp 482–3, BL: Harley MS 1948, ff 60v–1* 19–22 The … yerely:] The p*ro*clamations and the manner vsed to this daye, here followe: The mayors P*ro*clamation on ye Rood de on Shrouetusdaye, before these homages be deliuered a*n*d the games played *1948* 24–6m A … tuseday:] *1948 omits* 24 Oes: Oes: Oes:] *1948 reduces to the marginalia* Oyes: *under which RH II added* thrise 25 his] ye kings *1948, above which RH II added* Queens 26 manner of persons] *phrase underlined by RH II, above which he added to 1948* & euery person & persons 27 assembled] *above which RH II added to 1948* or shall assemble themselues to see the Auntient Games hertofore accustomed to be played as on this day 28 Subieckes] *above which RH II added to 1948* then present 28 them] *above which RH II added to 1948* doe 29 peace] peace & be of good behauiour *1948* 30 &c:] *1948 omits*

An other p*ro*clamation for the homages
of maried p*er*sons. to the drap*er*s:

All manner of p*er*sones that haue bene maried w*i*thin the Cittie of Chester and dwell els where or maried els where and dwell w*i*thin the same Cittie this last yere past, Come forth and doe yo*u*r homages in deliueringe vp. your gleaues vpon payne of ten powndes:

for the Shoemakers,

The Alderman and stuardes of the Shooemakers ‸⌜w*i*thin ye Citti of Chester⌝ Come forth and doe yo*u*r homage. in deliueringe vp. yo*u*r gleaues. and p*re*sentment*es* vpon paine of ten powndes:

for the Sadlers:

The Aldermen and stuardes of the Sadlers w*i*thin the Cittie of Chester Come forth and doe yo*u*r | homage w*i*th yo*u*r horse and bell, vpon payne of ten powndes:

Of the Shereffes breackfast:

Whereas time out of the memori of man no man liueinge rememboringe the origenall: The ij sherefes of the Cittie of Chester doe yerely on monday in ester weke co*m*monly called blake monday, [doe] doe p*ro*uide abreakefast of Calues heades and bacon, and there on the Roode dee p*ar*tes are taken by gent*lemen*, yeomen, & good fellowes w*i*th one shereffe or the other, an equall nu*m*ber of archers on both sides, and there doe shoote for the same breakefast, w*hi*ch ended the winners side paye ij d. apeice, the losers: 4 d.

Collation continued: 1–2 An … drap*er*s:] for all maried p*er*sons: *1948 in which the proclamation for married persons follows that of the Sadlers* 4 All manner] *1948 adds* O yes: *as marginalia* 6 past] *1948 omits* 6 homages] seuerall homages *1948* 11 The Alderman] *1948 adds* O yes: *as marginalia* 11 stuardes] stuardes of ye societie & Companye *1948* 11 Shooemakers] *above which* RH II *added to 1948* Cordwinders 13 ten powndes:] *below which at the bottom of f 60,* RH II *added to 1948* mr knight onst clarke of the pentice sayth that this Custome was obserued before his tyme tyme out of Mynd: & that in Considration of this homage the Company of Cordwenores in the sayd City be free from the trialls in matters bet*ween* party & party before mr maior & the Sheriffs 17 The Aldermen] *1948 adds* O yes: *as marginalia below which* RH II *added* this Called first in mr K*nigh*ts notes 17 of the Sadlers] of ye societie and Companye of Sadlers *1948* p 439, l.21–p 442, l.17 Of the Shereffes … playes:] *for 1948 variant version see pp 483–6,* BL: *Harley* MS *1948, ff 61–4v* the all take p*ar*te thereof, at the Com*m*on hall of the said Cittie, w*hi*ch Custome soe vsed, the time beinge veri seasonable, the ende being the amitie and societie of the Cittizens there deserues not only Continuance but also greate Com*m*endation: |

Of St Georges day:

In the yere of our lord :1609: mr William Lester mercer beinge maior of Chester, one mr Robert Ambrye Irnemonger, somtime a Shereffe of the Citti of Chester, w*i*th the consent of the mayor and Citti caused: 3. bells of siluer [⟨...⟩] or Cuppes of siluer of agood value to be made, the w*hi*ch weare appoynted to be yerely on that day runne for by horses vpon the Roode dee, that horse that was firste, to haue the best bell, and [hor] ‸⌜y*a*t horse⌝ that came second to haue the second bell, And for the third bell it is the same day ru*n*ne for by gent*lemen* at the ringe, who runinge there and takeinge the ringe haue it for that yeare, And so the [t] other 2. bells also, and they are broughte in the same day twelue monthe, And soe remayne foreuer:

Of the showe at midsomer:

Of the midsomer show, beinge of like antiquitie no man liueinge rememboringe the origenall it hath continued euer to be p*er*formed on midsomer | eaue. except the eaue. fell on the sonday then the maior hath [g] p*er*formed it the day before In w*hi*ch show many thinges, w*hi*ch weare offensiue hath bene taken awaye. and reformed by the Instance of worthy Preachers. whoe spake against som thinges formerly vsed. bot for the decensie of it now, it is moste Comendable, rich, and beautifull, The like in few Citties of this lande:

Of Christ*mas* watches:

The cause of w*hi*ch is very anchant, for the ould brittons the Walshmen, beinge at warres w*i*th this Citti, beinge soe often molested with brvyles it beinge the only place in these p*ar*tes for defence, the said walshe men, came in the nighte at Christmas time and burned and destroyed A greate p*ar*te of this Cittie, wherevpon, A stricte watch was at that time euer kepte, And with the Conqueror Came in 4. britheren videlicet Neele lord of Halton. Constable of Cheshire Hadard lord of Dutton. marshall of Cheshire Edward lord of Haw[⟨.⟩]‸⌜a⌝rden. stuard of Cheshire Hebard lord of Do*n*ham Chamberlayne of Cheshire To ‸⌜all⌝ these it should seime the Conqueror gaue | greate landes,

15/ runinge: *5 minims in* MS

To haue theire aydes to defende this Cittie. as neede shoulde require, ⟨…⟩ the same landes are at this daye come to the possession of the Earles of Oxenford & Derbye, mr Port. and diuers otheres, whoe yerely by theire deputies doe theire seruices and homages at the Mayores watch Courte, and there be called to serue in respecte of the tenure of the same landes, w*hi*ch landes are Called ye Gable rent, and oughte to be at the seruice of the Cittie vpon any occasion,: The w*hi*ch oulde custome now vsed is torned to the seruice of watcheinge the Cittie from danger of fire robbers, or other violent misdemenors, wharby peace might be broken, or God dishonored, at soe sacred afeast, where vpon the watchcourt beinge ended, the state of that Cittie doe vsuallye, banquett togeather, as the time requires, and ‸⌈as⌉ Ciuill societies vnited togeather by those anchant and lawdable customes, whoe metinge in such a state of solemnitie, doe Ioyne in frendly concorde, by banquetinge togeather to theire Iuste deserued praise and co*m*mendation |

Now of the Whitson
playes in Chester:

ye origenall of ye whitson playes:

ye author.

Concerninge the whitson playes of Chester The origenall of them was. In the time of S*i*r Iohn Arneway. who by most copies was the first maior of Chester, about an*no* d*omi*ni :1332: then the weare firste played and sett forthe: The Author or maker of them was one Randoll A monke of the Abbay in Chester. whoe made the same in p*ar*tes as it was:

ye matter

The matter of these playes weare the historie of the bible, composed by the said author in a holy deuotion, that the simple mighte vnderstand the scripture, w*hi*ch in those times was hid from them:

ye Actors

the time of ye yere when they were played

The actores or players, weare the Companies or trades men of the Citti of Chester, who at theire owne Costes and Charges, sett forth and alsoe played the same playes yerelye: the last time they weare played in Chester was: an*no* do*mi*ni :1574: | S*i*r Iohn Sauage beinge maior of Chester mr Iohn Allen & mr William Goodman beinge shereffes: The time when they weare played was, 3 dayes togeather, on monday: Tueseday: & Wenseday in Whitson weeke,

The [time of] ‸⌈places⌉ ‸⌈where⌉ ye played

The man*n*er [of ye playes] how ye plaied.

The places where they weare played were in euery streete of the Cittie, that all people that would mighte behoulde the same: The manner of these playes was, euery Company made a Pageant on w*hi*ch they played theire p*ar*tes, w*hi*ch Pagiant was a scaffolde, or a high foure square buildinge, w*i*th .2. rowmes a higher and alower, the lower hanged aboute richly and closse, into w*hi*ch, none, but the actors came, on the higher they played theire p*ar*tes beinge all open to the behoulders, this was sett on .4. wheeles, and

1/ ⟨…⟩: *illegible correction of one or two letters over others* soe drawne from streete to street, they first beganne at the Abbay gates, where when the first pagiante was played, it was wheled into an other streete, and the second pagiant came in the place thereof and so till all the pagiantes for the day weare ended, soe into euery streete and, it was soe orderly attended, that before the | one Pagiant was played an other came in place to satisfye the beholders in euerye streete at one time: Also euery yere that these playes were played, on St. Georges day before, was the banes read, w*hi*ch was a man did ride warlike apparaled like st. George throughe euery streete, w*i*th drume musicke and trumpetes, And there was published that the playes were played that yeare, And that the breife or banes of the playe was reade what euery Company should playe, w*hi*ch was called the Readinge of the bannes, the wordes of w*hi*ch conclusion was this:

All those that be minded to tary
On monday, tweseday. & wensday in whitson
weeke begines the storye:

for the better explaninge I haue here sett downe the, Companies seuerall Pagiantes and p*ar*tes the played, in those whitson playes:

...

ff· 112v–13*

...

In the [time] ʌ⌈yere⌉ when this S*i*r Iohn Arneway was mayor of Chester, the whtson playes made by a monke of Chester Abbay named Rondoll, was by the said maior published and caused to be sett forth and played at the Charges of euery Company w*i*thin the said Cittie w*i*th theire Pagiantes as in the former Chapters is fully expressed, And the said Rondoll the author in the p*ro*louge before his booke of the whitson playes doth shew more fully. And the said monke Rondoll who did make the said playes lyeth buried w*i*thin the marchantes | Ile w*i*thin the Cathedrall Church of Chester

...

1619–20

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 2/39
mb [3] *(15 October–13 October) (Payments)*

...

It*em* paid the xxviij^th^ of ffebruary vnto Thomas williams steward of the Sadlers Towarde the Bell at Shrovetyde	vj s. viij d.
Item paid to Guest for drum*m*inge vpon Shrove tewsday	xij d.

23/ whtson: *for* whitson
37/ Shrovetyde: *26–8 February 1619/20*
38/ Shrove tewsday: *28 February 1619/20*

Item paid to the keeper for taking downe the pales
at the roodee and setting them vp againe xvj d.
Item paid to m*aste*r Leauelooker Goose for a xj yardes
& half of broadcloth for the waytmens gownes at viij s.
the yarde iiij li. iiij s.
Item paid to him for the 2 boyes Cloakes being
iiij. yard*es* xxxij s.
…
Item paide to Nicholas Hallwood and William Handcock
to paynt the Iyant*es* &c xliij s.
…

mb [4]
…
Item paid to Guest for beatinge the drum at
Midsomer watche xij d.
…
Item paid to Nicholas hallwood and william hancock
for payntinge the maiors mounte xxvj s.
…
Item paid to Thomas wealch for Carryinge the
Auntient at midsomer watch ij s. vj d.
…

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
ff 52v–3* *(15 October–13 October)*

…

Bullbayte

A bull baytinge at the heigh Crosse the 2th daye of october Accordinge to Auncient Custome. for M*aste*r mayors fare well out of his office. it Chaunced a Contention fell out betwixt the Bowchers and bakers of this Cittye aboute there dogges then feightinge. The fell to blowes. and in the tumulte of manye people. woulde not be paciffyed Soe that m*aste*r mayor. seeinge theire greate abuse being Cittizins. Coulde not for beare but he in p*er*son hym selfe. wente out of the pentise. Amongst them to have the peace kepte. They in theire Rage. [but] . lytill did Regarde hym. lyke rude and vnbroken fellowes, were in thende parted. and the begynners of the sayde brawle being exsamyned and founde out were Commytted to the North gate/ m*aste*r mayor smott freely Amongst them & broke his whyte staffe, and the Cryer Tho*mas* knowstley brake his mase & soe the brawle ended/ |

After the Tumulte and fallinge out of the aforesayde Butchers and bakers, knowing the had offended and done Amisse/ Broughte out vnto the bull Ringe one other bull vpon the vth october 1619: and there made verye fayer playe/ in the presentes of m*aste*r mayor and his brethen S*i*r Thomas Savage and other gent*lemen* then presente who had before dyned w*i*th m*aste*r mayor at his howse/

Soe after the bull baytinge. S*i*r Thomas Savage knight & barronett and alderman of this Cittye, sente vnto the bowchers and bakers .xx s. to drinke to geather & to be frendes his worshipp heareinge before of the Contencio*n*: w*hi*ch the toke thankefully and spente merrilye/ prayinge god to blesse hym & all his Chearefullye

...

A ***Mayors List 13*** CCALS: ZCR 60/83

f 35v* *(15 October–13 October)*

...

In the moneth of ffeabruarye 1619 was begonne to be buylded and made a new cocke pitt. in a Certeyne Crofte. neere vnto St Iohns Church & neere to the water syde, at the Charges of the Righte honorable willm Earle of darbye. w*i*th other buyldinges & bowlinge Alley neere vnto the same place. for his honour & his honorable and good frends pleasures/

Vpon the first daye of march 1619 beinge Shrove tusday Mr Iohn Ratclyffe. alderman and iustice of the peace w*i*thin this Cittye. his horse did wynne the race one the Roode deey and gate the silver bell/ worthelye/

The Game of Cocke feightinge, at the place before written, beganne the sixt daye of march 1619. and did Contynue one wholl weeke/ where at was verye many honorable men & knight*es* and gent*lemen* at that same game of Cocke feightinge/

...

Mr Iohn Ratclyffe Alderman. his same horse that did wynne the silver bell one shrove Tusdaye did wynne. the best bell. at the race one the Roode deey one St george daye/

...

ff 36–6v

...

Vpon the seconde daye of October 1620/ beinge moundaye in thafter noone/ Accordinge to Aunciente custome before tym⟨.⟩ vsd w*i*thin this Cittye/ the Companye of the bowchers brough⟨.⟩ forth theire bull. to the bull Ringe neere vnto the hie Cros⟨..⟩ before m*aste*r maior & his brethren and many other Cittizins & ge⟨.⟩ w*hi*ch sporte was for m*aste*r maiors farewell before his goeinge ou⟨.⟩ of his office/

It fortuned that in the middest of the sporte of bull baytinge the bowchers

1/ brethen: *for* brethren

16/ willm: *for* will*iam*; *abbreviation mark omitted* and bakers, who brought fourth theire dogg⟨.⟩ to fighte w*i*th the bull by Courses: did fall out at varience one geenist and other soe that they fell to buffett*es* w*i*th blowe⟨.⟩ bouth feist*es* and staves. and p*ar*tes beinge taken on bouth syd⟨.⟩ the brawle increased: soe that they woulde not be quallify⟨.⟩ nether by the Cunstables nor officers/

m*aste*r maior Standinge in the pentise window was forced to Come downe into the streete w*i*th m*aste*r Thomas Ince sheriff⟨.⟩ and others/ Commaundinge them to keepe the king*es* peace the. Contentious people lytill regardinge m*aste*r maior or his Authoritye. contynued still in there humers, soe th⟨..⟩ m*aste*r maior w*i*th his white staffe w*hi*ch was in his hand did let flye at them/ soe that his staffe brake in peece⟨.⟩ Alsoe he toke sheriffe Inc*es* staffe & brak it Amongst them/ & the Cryer brak his Mase in peeces Amonge them/

After manye of the offenders one bouth sydes were taken and sente to the Northgate/ & theire were punished for theire Missbehavyour, towardes m*aste*r maior & his Ma*ie*sties peace/

After this vpon the v^th^ daye of october 1620/ the Aldermen the stewardes and the Reste of the Companye of the bowcher⟨..⟩ to giue m*aste*r maior & his brethren & the Cittizins better contentm*en*t. for the foremer abuse/ brought In an other bul⟨.⟩ to be bayted at the hie Crosse before m*aste*r maior ^⌜&⌝ one S*i*r ⟨.⟩ Thomas Summersett knight, S*i*r Thomas Savage kn⟨...⟩ baronett w*i*th manye other knight*es* & gent*lemen* of this shier th⟨..⟩ present/ who did tha⟨.⟩ daye dyne w*i*th m*aste*r maior at his ⟨...⟩ and after was banquited in the pentice

After the bull made good sporte/ beinge well bayted ⟨...⟩ bowchers and bak⟨...⟩ ⟨...⟩ouses. w*hi*ch gave ⟨...⟩ to | his brethren and the rest of the gent*lemen* & Cittizins greate Contentm*en*t beinge verye quiett and Scevill in there sporte of bull baytinge/

After the sporte endid S*i*r Thomas Savage Knight and alderman of this Cittye Sente vnto the Companye of the bowchers and Companye of the bakers eyther of them Tenne shillinges in money Apeece to drinke & to make merrye amonge them selves after the bull baytinge w*hi*ch the very thankefully Received gyvinge his worshipp greate thankes/

...

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
f [49v] *(27 November–27 November)*

Midsom*er* accompt*es*.

pa*i*d for a payer of shooes for the Child	xviij d.
pa*i*d for a payer of hoes for the child	ij s. iiij d.

26/ ⟨...⟩: *damage at the right-hand and bottom edges of folio*

p*ai*d for a payer of gloues for the child	x d.
spent at dressing of the Child	ij s.
spent in p*ro*uiding a horse for the Child & for other necessaries	xviij d.
geuen to the Musicion*er*s	vj s.
p*ai*d for beare vpon midsom*er* Even	v s.
p*ai*d for bread and Cheese	vj s.
p*ai*d for wyne.	ij s.
p*ai*d for prunes & apples and other thing*es*	xx d.
geuen to three men that led the horse	ij s.
geuen to the Crier at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the Castell	vj d.
geuen to the prison*er*s at the Northgate	vj d.
…	
geuen to mr holmes for keping the banner.	xij d.
…	

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29
ff [16v–17] *(13 January 1619/20–13 January 1620/1)*

…

Midsomer Charges

payde for the loone of Ahatt for our boye y*a*t did Ryde	xij d.
paid for one dossen of poyntes	iiij d.
paid for his gloves	x d.
paid for 2. payer of gloves for the two men	xij d.
paid for the boyes shooes	xxij d.
paid for his stockinges and shoe tyes and Reben for his horse head	ij s.
paid for drinke at the barres	x d.
paid the Cryer at barrs	iiij d. |
paid at the Castell Northgate and to olde Sydall	xij d.
paid for our Musicke	xviij d.
paide for beere and bread at our banquiett	vj s.
paid for Cheese	ij s.
paid for pruines	viij d.
paid for apples	vj d.
paid for Suger & Synamond	iiij d.
paid for one quarte Clarett & w*hi*t wine	xij d.
…	
payde at the dynner of Thomas lynaker The first August 1620 one quarte seacke and one pottell w*hi*t wine	ij s.
paide the same tyme for our musicke	iij s.
…	

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4
f 30 *(11 November–11 November)*

...
Rec*eived* of Tho*mas* Ryder for Abuseing Al*derman*
younge 6 d. vj d.
Rec*eived* more for his fyne for the absence of hym
self and his man at watch 6 d. vj d.
...
Rec*eived* of Raffe morgan for his fyne. for abuseing
his selfe at the watch tyme, & Calling some of his
brethren Iourneymen 12 d. xij d.
...

f 32

...
Imprimis payde: the xjth daye of November 1619.
after our dynn*er* at m*aste*r sheriffe Inces howse to
Roberte Kelly for Musick iiij s.
paid vnto Thomas hough iiij d.
...
payde vnto Roberte kellye & his Company at
Stewarde Enyalls howse ij s.
...
more geven vnto Roberte kelly for musicke ij s.
...

f 32v

payde for powther and match at m*aste*r Sheriffe Incces
watch. he beinge our Alderman v s. iij d.
...
paide to Roberte kellye for musicke at the Cominge
in of Iacob Carter ij s.
...
payde for our gleeves and berrage at Shroftyde vj s. viij d.
payde to george kelly for musicke ij s. vj d.
more geven to Roberte kelly the same tyme for musicke ij s.
payde at An over plushe after our drinkinge at shrovetyde
at m*aste*r Sheriff Inces howse v s.
...

7, 10, 29–30/ at watch, at the watch tyme, at m*aste*r Sheriffe Incces watch: *ie, at Midsummer eve*
35/ Shroftyde: *26–8 February 1619/20*

f 33

Midsomer Charges.

Inprimis Geven vnto mr hoolmes for keepinge our banner	xij d.
paid for apayer of Stockinges for the boye	xxij d.
paid for his shooes	xvj d.
paid for apayer of gloves	viij d.
paid for sylke Reben for the boyes shoe tyes and for the horse head.	xij d.
paide for one dozin poyntes	vj d.
paid for hyering ahatt for the boye	vj d.
Spent at dressinge of the boye	iij d.
Spent wi*t*hout the barrs for drinke	ij s. viij d.
more giuen the Cryer	vj d.
more giuen will*ia*m Sidall	iiij d.
more geven at Castell and Northgate	ij s.
more giuen to the men that attended the boye & horse	xviij d.
paid for our musicke to Roberte kelly	iiij s.
paid for wine at our banquit midsom*er* even	ij s. vj d.
paide at an over plushe at our banquiett one midsomer even 14 s. 4 d.	xiiij s. iiij d.

…

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 49*

…

geuen to the bearebruers	x s.

…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

f [1v] *(1 August 1620–1 August 1621) (Disbursements)*

…

Inprimis disbursed for beere and wyne at Hugh Taylors house the first of August 1620	iiij s.
It*e*m for wyne at the dinner at Mr Walleys house	iiij s.
It*e*m paid to George Callie for musicke the same day	v s.

…

It*e*m paid for Musicke at the dinner at Hugh Taylors house	v s.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 104 *(25 March 1620–25 March 1621) (Receipts)*

...

It*em* of Raph davies and Rob*er*t Thomasson for theire disorder on Midsom*er* Eve	vj d.

...

(Disbursements)

It*em* for a hatt for the Child that did Ride for the Company on Midsomer Eve	iij s. viij d.
It*em* paid for a paire of stocking*es* for the Child ⌜and garters⌝	xviij d.
It*em* paid for gloues and for Ribbonninge	xviij d.
It*em* paid for a paire of shooes for the Childe	xviij d.
It*em* giuen to the Cryer at the Barrs	iiij d.
It*em* given to the prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
It*em* given to Sibdall a poore man	ij d.
It*em* paid for starchinge a Cloth to Couer the Saddle	ij d.
It*em* spent in wyne at the dressinge of the Childe	vj d.
It*em* paid to three men to Attend the Child	xij d.
It*em* paid vnto the Musicke	xviij d.
It*em* paid for a Pyke for the staffe	ij d.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2
p 35 *(4 July)*

...

Raph Davies hath paid the somme of vj d. for givinge vndecent speeches to Alderem*an* Higgins on Midsom*er* Eve, but by the Censure of the Companie the one half is given him agayne iij d.

Iohn Marfield is fyned in the somme of xij d. for being disordered amongst the Companie vpon Midsomer Eve

...

Rob*er*t Thomasson hath paid the somme of vj d. for beinge disordered vpon Midsomer eve but because he hath submitted himself to the Censure of the Companie the one half is given him agane iij d.

...

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book

CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 111 *(5 May 1620–4 May 1621)*

...

payde for one payer of gloves and hoose and shooes for the Ladye	iij s. x d.
payde to three men for Attendinge the Ladye	iij s.
payde for three payer of gloves for the three men	xviij d.
payde for Musicke	vj s. viij d.
payde vnto the prisoners at the Castell and Northgate	iiij s.
paide to will*ia*m Sidall the Lame Cobler	vj d.
Spente at Raffe wilsons howse w*i*thout the barres vpon the Companye	ij s. vj d.
Geven vnto the Cryer at the barrs	xij d.
payde for sylke Rebine for the horse heade	ix d.
payde for shooe tyes and silke Rybine for the ladyes head	iij s.

...

p 112

...

more geven to Iames Smyth at our meeting 3. Iuly 1620.	xij d.
payde for halfe abarill of beere	vj s. vj d.

...

paide to mr drinkwater for prunes and Comfett*es*	xj s.
payde for wafers	ij s.
payde for Cakes	ij s.
payde for one potter seacke one pottell Clarett	iij s.
paide for j li. Suger at	xviij d.
payde for two ounces Synamond	viij d.
payde for fetchinge furniture for the Ladye and for thuse of them	xv d.
payde to mr hoolmes for keepinge the two banners. for the yeare	ij s.

...

payd for halfe [Ell blue] and Crimsyn taffyta for two Tippett*es*	vij s. iiij d.
paide for makinge them and sil*uering*	ij s. vj d.

...

p 113

…

payde by Iames battrich one of the stewardes for gloves stockinges and shooes the some of	x s.

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/1

f 154 *(18 October–18 October)*

…

It*em* geven in berage at dressing the phenix Caried at Midsom*er*	ij s. 0
It*em* for arsedine	0 iij d.

…

It*em* paied at severall times for Charges disbursed about the phenix	xvij s. x d.

…

Midsom*er* eues Charges

It*em* for gloues for the Ald*er*men and stuard*es*	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* shooes and gloues for the Child	iij s. x d.
It*em* riband and shooeties	0 x d.
It*em* at dressing the Child spens	0 v d.
It*em* at the bars Castle and Northgate	j s. 0
It*em* for o*ur* banquet on Midsom*er* Eue	vij s. 0
It*em* pottle sacke and pottle Claret	iij s. 0
It*em* to the musicke	iij s. iiij d.
It*em* to one that led the horse	j s. vj d.
It*em* three pottles of beere	j s. 0
It*em* for loane of a hat and fether	0 vj d.
It*em* to William handcoke for gildinge the little phenix	j s. iiij d.

…

Quarter Sessions Examinations CCALS: ZQSF 67 [6]

ff 1–2v *(August)*

Taken at Chester before the mayor and others

…

Iohn Blymson ‸⌈late⌉ s*er*vaunt to Iohn Bank*es* of the Cittie of Chester Taylor exa*min*ed, Saith That vppon frydaie was sevenight, The Earle of Darby sendinge his footman for the said Iohn Bank*es* to his house, and he beinge not at his house, ‸⌈&⌉ this exa*min*ant ‸⌈Cominge afterward*es* to Bank*es* his house & hearinge he was sent f⟨..⟩⌉ [beinge att h⟨…⟩] went to the said Earle of Darbye att his Chamb*er* about sixe [of] or 7 of the clock att night, where ye said Earle of Darby beinge, and his man George. the said Earle demaunded ‸⌈of this exa*min*ant⌉ where his said m*aste*r was, and he this exa*min*ant ‸⌈sayd⌉ that he was in Lancashire/ and so staid ‸⌈within the Chamber by ye doore⌉ [⟨…⟩] vntill my lord [⟨..⟩he] ⌈went⌉ to supper to the Crowe/ and ‸⌈he⌉ went alonge thith⟨..⟩ and whylest my lord was att supper this exa⟨…⟩ ‸⌈staied belowe⌉ having a pype of tobacco/ dryed ‸⌈and Cutt⌉ the same ⟨…⟩ after [was] ‸⌈supp*er*⌉ went vpp to the Chamber where ⟨…⟩ lord was, and tolde George that he had amend⟨..⟩ the [sa] bedd/ and havinge the key of the chamber where the bedd was amend ‸⌈whereuppon Georg did⌉ said he would [t⟨…⟩] ‸⌈the⟨.⟩⌉ haue Deliu*ere*d the Keye himself to my lord because | he hoped to haue somewhat for his pai⟨…⟩ ⟨.⟩nd there attendinge my lord vntill two of the clocke or thereabout*es* kept the said Key all the while/ and then went after my lord to his chamber/ where the Earle Callinge for a pype of Tobacco this exa*min*ant ‸⌈being in the said chamber⌉ tolde the said George, that he had a pype of good tobaccoe, which my lord did afterward*es* tast of and lyked of the same/ and afterward*es* [would knowe] ‸⌈demaunded⌉ where he had ‸⌈it⌉ who tould my lord he had ‸⌈it⌉ of Iames Battcich and thereuppon my lord bade him Come ye next morninge/ and he would send him for some itt/ and saith that he this exa*min*ant Whyles my lord was sittinge vpp/ and as he taketh aboue two or thrie of the clocke departed from my lord*es* chamber and then deliu*er*ed the keye to the said George and so went his waie through peppar street toward*es* his lodging, att one Wydowe Garse her house where he hath laine these 2 yeares/ and Com*m*inge to ye doore [and noe bodye lettinge him in] ‸⌈and the same being mo⟨..⟩e he knocked/ and noe body Cominge to open⌉ the same he went downe the Rowe vppon hearinge of some Musicke ⌈in the street⌉ and went as farre as to the bridge the Musicke [still followinge] Com*m*ing [after him] ⌈downe the streete⌉ still playeinge/ and he afterward*es* | beinge vppon the bridge and heareinge the musick Com*m*ing that waie and plaieing, this exa*min*ant turned back, and mett them vppon the bridge, and some of the musicke knowing him and demaundinge where he had bene, he awnswea⟨..⟩ att my lord*es* chamber ‸⌈and could not gett into his owne lodging⌉ and one of them desyring this exa*min*ant to goe drynke a Cuppe of beere, he assenting, went w*i*th him to one Kettles house where they drunke, and aft*er*wa*r*d the went vpp togeth*er* toe the northgate streete where they drunke att one Edward wright*es* house and when the bell tolled [att] ‸⌈for⌉ praiers att St Peters, the musicke goeing to plaie att a gent*le*[le] mans chamber, he this exa*min*ant went to his bedd, where he slept till about 8 of the clocke and then arysynge went to his the said Bank*es* his house/ and fynding him in bedd he asked whether he had bene ⟨…⟩ my lord*es* and he awnswearing he had/ ⟨…⟩ the said Bank*es* bade this exa*min*ant to go ⟨…⟩ my lord*es* chamber/ and he would come af⟨…⟩ him/ who Com*m*ing to the Earles lodginge, th⟨…⟩ doores weare fast, and this exa*min*ant ther⟨…⟩ sate neere to the doores vntill Mr Lathu⟨..⟩ Came thither/

[and] ‸⌜who⌝ staied w*ith* this exa*min*ant | till the doores weare opened, w*hi*ch being ⟨…⟩ed he spake to one Henry my lord*es* footman [to giue] and requested him to helpe him the said exa*min*ant to the Tobaccoe my lord had left the last night/ and the said Henry goeing to my lord*es* chamber/ and he this exa*min*ant putting one foott into my lord*es* Chamber Receiued the said tobaccoe from the said Henry and thereuppon he went his waie, and about an hower after Returned and Com*m*ing to my lord*es* Chamber/ my lord Called him to him/ and bade him to goe & [enquyre for] ‸⌜fetche⌝ his m*aste*r/ whereuppon he goeing homeward*es*, mett his m*aste*r in peppar street, w*ith* a Cloke und*er* his arme and thereuppon went backe againe into my lord*es* chamber/ where he Receiuinge some direcc*i*ons to amend the cloke this exa*min*ant tooke the Cloke awaie w*ith* him/ and about foure of the clo⌜c⌝ke in the after noone [Returned w*ith*] brought the said Cloke by his M*aste*rs direcc*i*on to the said George in the bowling alley/…

1620–1

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 53v* *(13 October–12 October)*

[merrye maye day.]

A pleasante shoe sett out vpon [maye daye morninge] ⌜°munday in witson week°⌝ of younge men Cittizins. Sett out by mr ffraunc*es* Gamull & [on Thomas Gamull: brethiers children] ⌜°Randle holme°⌝ [beinge two ⟨…⟩ God blesse them bauth] ⌞°& others of bridstreet°⌟

merrye St Iames day.

An other shew sett out vpon St Iames daye by the Cittizins ⌜°of forgat street°⌝ verye pleasant to the behoulders & p*ro*ffytt to the Cittye be reason manye Cuntree people Came in to see it

…

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff [55–5v] *(27 November–27 November) (Disbursements)*

…

midsom*er* accompt*es*

ffirst paid for a payer of shoes for the Child	xxij d.
It*em* paid for a payer of stocking*es* for the Child	xxij d.
It*em* paid for a payer of gloues for the Child	xiiij d.
It*em* spent at the dressing of the Child	ij s.
It*em* [geuen] spent in p*ro*uiding of a horse for the Child to rid vpon	xviij d.
It*em* geuen to three men that led the horse	ij s.

20–1/ munday … week: *in RH II's hand as are cancellations*
22/ Randle holme: *in RH II's hand as is cancellation*
23/ & others of bridstreet: *in RH II's hand as is cancellation*
24/ of forgat street: *in RH II's hand*

Item paid for prunes Comfett*es* apples & other thing*es*	xx d.
Item paid for bread and Cheese	vj s.
Item paid for beare	v s.
Item paid for wine	ij s. vj d.
Item geven to the mvsition*ers*	vj s.
Item p*ai*d for a Salmon more then iij s. iiij d. w*hi*ch the drawers in dee allowe	ij s. viij d. |
Item geuen to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
Item geven to Siddall	ij d.
Item geven to the prison*ers* at the Castell	vj d.
Item to the prison*ers* at the northgate	vj d.
Item geuen to mr holmes for keping the banner	xij d.
Item geuen to mr holmes for dressing the staffe	xij d.

...

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29

f [21] *(13 January 1620/1–13 January 1621/2)*

...

Inprimis .payde: at: the greene dragon at Rob*er*t martens dynner the 13th Ianuarye 1620 for one pottell w*hi*t wine and one pottell Clarett	ij s. viij d.
paide the same tyme to george kellye and his Companye for Musicke	iij s. iiij d.

...

f [21v]*

Midsomer Charges 1621

payde for the boyes stocking*es* shoe tyes and poyntes	ij s. iiij d.
paide for his gloves	xij d.
payde for his shooes	xx d.
paide for two payer of gloves for the two men	xij d.
paide for Cheese	ij s.
paide for bread	xviij d.
paide for halfe abarill beere	iiij s.
paide for prvnes & nott*es* & suger & Sinamon	x d.
paide for apples	vj d.
paide for two quartes wine	xij d.
paid for ale at the barres for the Companye	iiij d.
paide to the Crier at barrs	iiij d.
paide at Castell & northgate to the prisoners	x d.
paid to olde sidall & the blinde boye	iiij d.

paide for our musicke xviij d.

...

paide for Gune powder and match for our men
at Midsomer iiij s. iij d.
paid to the syxe men that did Carrie our Armour iij s.
paid to the Cuttler for Cleaninge our Armor iiij d.

...

paide vnto Nicholas hullwood for dressinge of our flagg staffe xij d.

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 37 *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

...

Rec*eived* of Thomas Ryder for his absence at midsomer
even 12 d. xij d.

...

Rec*eived* of Edwarde Allen. for not goeinge in his place
& keepinge Ranck vpon midsomer even at watch iij d.

...

f 39 *(Payments)*

...

more geven vnto Robertẹ kellye for musicke at Iacob
Carters dynner ij s.
more paide to hym for musicke at Stewarde Tottyes
the same nighte ij s.

...

paide for musicke at Stewarde morgans̀ howse ij s.

...

f 39v

...

payde for musicke. at mr Inces. when will*ia*m Locker
came into the companye ij s.

...

Shrouetyde./ paide for our sixe gleaves at shrovetyde and the berrage
to the gouldsmith vj s. viij d.
paid for our musicke at shrove tyde to the waytemen ij s.
paide to george kelly & his Companye for our musicke
at mr Inces. the same tyme iij s.

35m, 35, 37/ Shrouetyde, shrovetyde, shrove tyde: *11–13 February 1620/1*

paid at mr Inces after. our Drinkinge one the Thursdaye at an over plushe	vj s.
paid the same tyme for one pottell of seacke	ij s.

…

f 40

…

Mydsomer Charge 1621

+paid: for orrenges and cheese	vj s.
+paide for apples	*(blank)*
paid for apynte of wine at the dressinge of the boye	iij d.
paide for the Loone of Ahatt for our boye	vj d.
paid for his gloves	viij d.
paid for his stocking*es*	ij s.
paid for one dozin silke poyntes	xvj d.
paid for silk Reben for shooe tyes	vj d.
paid for his shooes	xviij d.
paid for Reben for his horse	vj d.
paid to thrie men that Attended the boye	xviij d.
paid ^⌜to⌝ [for] the man that brought the horse & did dresse hym	xviij d.
paid the Crier at the barrs	vj d.
Geven to olde sidall	iiij d.
Geven to Ablynd boye	ij d.
Geven to the prisoners at the Castell and Northgate	ij s.
paid for our musicke	v s.
paid for .3. quartes seacke	iij s.
paid at an over plushe at our banquiett one midsomer even	xviij s.

…

Geven vnto the 3. men [y*a*t men] that tended the horse. beinge verye vnruly at the barrs to drinke	vj d.

f 41

…

Spent one. the Companye. at the barres one midsomer even at Iohnsons	xij d.

…

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 49*

…

geuen to the beare bruers	x s.

…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

f [1] *(1 August–1 August)*

...

It*em* rece*ived* toward*es* the provision of gunpowder spent on Midsom*er* eve	xj s. vj d.

...

ff [1v–2] *(Disbursements)*

...

It*em* paid to Make vp the Reconinge at the dinner at Mr Walleys house the xxvth of Ianuarie	xxj d.
It*em* paid for Musicke the same day	v s.
It*em* given to the servants of the house	ij s.
It*em* paid to make vp the Reconinge at the dinner at Mr Robert Whitehead*es* the xixth of ffebruarie	iiij s.
It*em* given to the Musicke	iij s.
It*em* given to the servant*es* of the house	xij d.
It*em* given toward*es* the Curinge of Broumfield a lunniticke at the request of M*aste*r Maior	x s.
It*em* given vnto Handcocke for keepinge the paynted apparrell	xij d.
It*em* given to Mr Holmes for the keepinge of the Banner	xij d.
It*em* paid for gloues and garters for the Child that rode for the Companie at Midsomer eve	iij s. x d.
It*em* for Bootes	v s. vj d.
It*em* for a hatt for him	iiij s.
It*em* for Ribbon for poynt*es* and headdinge them	iiij s. vj d.
It*em* given to the workemen that made the boys apparrell	iiij d.
It*em* given to Mr Savages man for dressinge the horse w*hich* the boy rode vpon and for leadinge him	xviij d.
It*em* given vnto two men to attend the boy	xvj d.
It*em* given to the prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	x d. |
It*em* spent at Henrie Phillips house on Midsomer eve	xij d.
It*em* given vnto the Musicke the same day	v s.
It*em* paid for powder and Match	xv s. vj d.

...

It*em* paid for wyne and Beere at the dinner at Alderm*an* Breretons house the last day of Iulie	vj s. ij d.
It*em* paid [for] vnto the Musicke the same day	v s.

...

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 104 *(25 March–25 March) (Disbursements)*

...	
It*em* paid for the dinners of xxix^{en} *per*sons the xxvijth of Nouember at ix d. a peece	xxj s. ix d.
...	
It*em* giuen to the Musicke the same tyme	iij s. iiij d.
...	

f 105v *(25 March 1621–25 March 1622)*

...	
It*em* spent in providinge a Child to Ride for the Companie on Midsomer Eve	iij d.
It*em* paid for a paire of shooes for the Child	xiiij d.
It*em* paid for stockings and garters	ij s. ij d.
It*em* paid for gloves	x d.
It*em* paid for Musicke	ij s.
It*em* paid to three men to Attend the boy	xij d.
It*em* paid for dressinge the horse that the Child did ride vpon	iij d.
It*em* paid for paintinge the staffe	xij d.
It*em* spent at the borrowinge of a hatt	ij d.
It*em* given to the Cryer at the Barrs, and to the prisoners at the Castle and Norgate	xij d.
It*em* given vnto Sibdall a poore man	ij d.
It*em* spent in wyne at the dressinge of the Child	viij d.
It*em* spent in Beere vpon Midsomer Eve in severall places	vij d.
...	
It*em* spent vpon the Child after the watch and vpon those that did Attend him	xviij d.
...	

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 119 *(4 May 1621–6 May 1622)*

...	
payde. for our boye at midsomer watch for one payer hoose one payer shooes. and one payer of gloves and one payer of garters	vj s.
payde for 3. men attendinge the boye	iij s.
payde for 3. payer of gloves for the 3. men	xxij d.

payde for musicke	vj s. viij d.
payde to the prisoners of the Castell and northgate	iiij s.
payde to lame Siddall. and the blynde boye that played one Adrome	xij d.
Spente at Rauffe wilsons howse at the barres vpon the Companye	xij d.
payde to the Cryer at the barres	xij d.
payde. for Carnation Rybyne silke for the horse	xij d.

…

pp 120–1

payde for halfe a barill of beere at our banquiett at mydsomer	iiij s.
payde for iij li. Comffett*es*	v s.
payde for Suger plates and marmilate	ij s. viij d.
payde for j C allnott*es*	iij d.
payde for orrenges and Lemons	x d.
payde for one dozin prvines	ij s.
payde for Cakes	ij s.
paide for j li. suger 16 d. and for Cloves & mace iij d.	xix d. [.]
payde for 2. ounces Synamon	viij d.
paide for one pottell Seacke and one pottell Clarrett wine	iij s.
paide for iiij C wafers	ij s.

…

payde for one ell q*uarte*r and a nayle mixte taffita at 15. s. p*er* ell	xix s. vij d.
Item ij dossen and two yardes of sylke & silver Lace at iij s. vj d. p*er* dozin	viij s. viij d.
more one quarter halfe q*uarte*r of soinge sylke at	xj d.
more one q*uarte*r ell Canvas at	v d.
more one yarde Ieane fustian at	xj d.
more iij neyles powldauie at	ij d.

…

payde for makinge the gowne	iiij s.
payde for the berrage	iij d. |
more in hookes and eyes	ij d.
more halfe A dozin of bone	ix d.
more one payer of wollen hoose	xx d.
more two yarde 6 d. Ribine at	x d.

more halfe Ayarde silke Ribine	v d.
more two yardes and halfe of fine 6 d. Ribine at	xiij d.
more one yarde and halfe 2 d. ferrett Riben	iij d.
payde for gloves	ij s.
more .4. yardes 2 d. Ribine	viij d.
more 3. yardes 2 d. Ribine	vj d.
…	
payde for one payer shooes	xx d.
payde for 3. payer of Gloves for 3. men	xviij d.
…	

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/2
f [1] *(18 October–18 October)* *(Disbursements)*

…	
Given to a berrage for seuerall work*es* aboute the Phenix for midsomer shew	xviij d.
[paid for powder at the same tyme	xij d.]
To three men for carrieng the Phenix & for Leadeinge the horsse	xviij d.
paid to sir Henry Bunburies man for his paynes aboute the horsse	xviij d.
paid to Siddall a poore man	iiij d.
paid to the barrs Castle & northgate	xij d.
…	
paid for gloves to ye Aldermen & steward*es*	iij s. iiij d.
Shoes ‸⌜hose⌝ and gloues for the Child	iij s. x d.
paid for Riban & Shooeties	x d.
spent at dressinge the Childe	v d.
for our banquett at midsomer eve	vij s.
a pottle of sack & a pottle of Clarrett	iij s.
To the musick	iij s. 4 d.
ffor stronge beare	xij d.
ffor loane of ahatt	vj d.
…	

AC ***Order of the Chester Show*** BL: Harley MS 2057
f 36 col 1 *(1 August)*

The order of our Showe

ferst 2 woodmen with &c./
St. George fighting with ye dragon &c./

[E⟨...⟩y] ⌈°tyme°⌉ et [vices] ⌈°fame°⌉ the leaders of ye 9 wortheys [men then speake] ⌊°then Eternity°⌋ °faling at variance°

The 9 wortheys in Compleat Armor with Crownes of gould on there heads, euery on hauing his esq*uie*r to beare before him his sheild and penon of Armes, dressed according as there lords where accostomed to be; 3 Issaralit*es*, 3 Infidels, 3 Christians &c./

After theme fame to declare the rare vertues and noble deedes of the 9 worthye women./

The 9 worthy women euery one adorned after there Cuntrey fashion, each one hauing her page before her bearing there Armes. &c./

next the 4 vertues sitting on a mount in the 4 Corners therof. a height aboue them the 3 graces in treangle wise

on the top of the mount shall stand Eternity ther speaker, this mount being a pagient for Visus, because it delites [yo*ur* yrs] the eyes. &c./

After them Lingua, because shee could not be p*er*mitted to make the 5 scences 6 is fittest to be ther speaker,/

1 seeinge, hauing her pagiant bfore her. &c./

2 smelling, adorned w*it*h flowers, before whome shall be led tow bloodhounds &c./

3 hearing, before whom shall goe musick Incident thervnto. &c./

4 Tastinge with a Cornucopia of frute in her hand, before whom shall ride an Ape on horse backe eating of Apples &c.

col 2

5 Touching. before whom shall be borne a torteaux. &c./

After them 4 seasons of ye yeare

Tyme there speaker./

1 ver in a greene gowne. after whom shall follow fawckners with hawckes on there fistes leadinge there spaniels, &c. and huntsmen with hares on there staues there hownds following them. &c./

2 oestas in a yellow gowne adowened with Flowers after whom shalbe drawne a cart with hay corne frute and flowers w*it*h other thinges ap*er*tayning to the season. &c./

3 Autum in a tawny gowne with faded leaues after whom shall be drawne, ferst a plowe then a man soing otes after him the harrow

4 Hyrms in a furd gowne a furd cap houlding his handes ou*er* a Chafindish of fier, w*it*h men after him dressed according to the season &c./

all the showe aboue saide to ryde on white and red horses./

17/ bfore: *for* before

37/ Hyrms: *for* Hyems

The soulders each man with a white Iacket, ‸⌈St Georges [chros] crose on ther⌉ red breeches, white stockens red garters with each thing compleat. &·⟨…⟩

[wee would intreat yo*u*r wor*sh*ipp*es* to keepe this note in your owne handes lest it bee too Common in the mouthes of our aduisaryes, which wee would not haue them to know our plot &c./]
°this show was Intended to be made vpon the pettion to m*aste*r Recorder but shortley it fell off and nothinge was done therin aug*ust* 1 1621°

1621–2

Apprentice Indenture Register CCALS: ZMAB 1
f 119 *(20 January)*

M*emorandum* quod vicesimo die Ianuarij Anno d*omi*ni 1621 Ric*ard*us Bradley filius Iacobi Bradley nup*er* de Brinninge in Com*itatu* Lancastrie defunct*i* p*er* Indentur*am* sua*m* geren*tem* dat*um* eisdem die & Anno posuit se Apprenticiu*m* Georgio Calley de Ciuitat*e* Cestr*ie* Music*i*oner et secu*m* Moratur more apprenticij

(2 February)
M*emorandum* quod secundo die ffebruarij Anno d*omi*ni 1621 Ioh*anne*s Bradley filius Iacobi Bradley nup*er* de Brinninge in Com*itatu* Lancastrie defunct*i* p*er* Indentur*am* suu*m* geren*tem* dat*um* eisd*e*m die et·Anno posuit [⟨..⟩ta] se Apprenticiu*m* Georgio Calley de Ciuit*ate* Cestr*ie* Music*i*oner et secu*m* moratur more Appren⌈ticij⌉

AC ***Mayors List 5*** BL: Harley MS 2125
f 54* *(12 October–11 October)*
…
on shroftusday diuers braue horses runing for the bell on Io*hn* blanchard of chester bruer tould he would fach his mare out of his trow & beat them all & laye wagers out w*hi*ch he p*er*formed & won the bell & had his mare in such account as he had a great price of her
…

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
f [59] *(30 November–28 November) (Disbursements)*
…

midsomer charg*es*.	paid for the Child*es* shoes	xvj d.

7–8/ this … 1621: *in RH II's hand*
7/ pettion: *for* petition
14, 21/ 1621: *underlined*
23/ suu*m*: *for* suam
30/ shroftusday: *5 March 1621/2*

paid for a payer of hose for him	xx d.
païd for a payer of gloues for him	xvj d.
spent at dressing the Child	ij s.
spent in p*ro*viding a horse for the Child	xviij d.
geuen to iij^{e} men to lead the Child*es* horse	ij s.
paid for prunes Comfett*es* apples & other thing*es*	xx d.
paid for bread and Cheese	vj s.
paid for half a barrell of the best beere	[viij s.] vj s. viij d.
[half a barr*el* of smale beare	ij s. vij d.]
paid for wyne	ij s. viij d.
geuen to the musicion*er*	iij s. [vj d.]
geuen to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
geuen to the Castell and to the northgate	xij d.
paid for keping the banner	xij d.

…

f 59v

…

payd to the Steward*es* of the drawers in dee for a Samon at mydsomer watch for this Companie to theire banquett	vij s. vj d.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29
ff [25–5v] *(13 January 1621/2–13 January 1622/3)*

…

Midsomer Charges 1622.

Inprimis payde to two picke men	xij d.
more payde to foure men beinge musketers	ij s.
more payde for powder and match	iiij s. iiij d.
more. payde for the loone of 2. payer of bandeleries of widdow locker	vj d.
more payde for the lone of 2. pickes	iiij d.
payde for drinke at the barrs vpon the Companye	xij d.
more payde to the Cryer, Castell and northgate	xiiij d.
more geven to apoore blynde boy	ij d. |
payde for the boyes shooes	xx d.
payde for his stockinges	ij s.
payde for his gloves	xij d.
payde for musicke	xviij d.
payde for 2. payers gloves for the 2. men	ix d.
payde for the loone of Ahatt for the boye	xij d.
payde for apayer ōf gloves bestowed vpon will*iam* pew Ioyner	xiiij d.

payde for bere at our Ald*erman* mr lynakers howse	vj d.
payde for strong bere for our banquiett	iiij s.
payde for bread	ij s.
payde for Cheese	ij s. vij d.
payde for prvines suger synamond Corrant*es*	xiiij d.
payde for Nuttes and aples	x d.
payde for one pottell of wine	xvj d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 45v *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

…

Rec*eived* of Thomas Ryder for his fyne for his absence and his mans one midsomer even 12 d.	xij d.
Rec*eived* of will*iam* Croughton for the same 12 d.	xij d.

…

f 47 *(Payments)*

…

Inprimis payde vnto Roberte kellye after our meetinge the 13. Novemb*er* 1621	ij s.

…

more giuen to Roberte kellye in handbridg at Stewarde Iensons howse	ij s.

…

more paid to Roberte kelly at Stewarde Lynialls howse	ij s.

…

f 47v

…

Shrovetyde/

payde for our sixe silver gleeves	vj s.
payde for the berrage of them	xvij d.
payde to the waytemen	ij s.
payde to Roberte kellye	ij s. vj d.
Spente at An overplush at mr Inces after our drinkinge one the. Thursdaye	xj s.

…

34/ Shrovetyde: *3–5 March 1621/2*

f 48

…

Midsomer Charge

payde for sylke poyntes for the boye	xij d.
payde for wine at the dressinge of our boye	xij d.
payde for the boyes stockinges	xviij d.
payde for his shooes	ij s. vj d.
payde for sylke Rebyne. for the boye & horse head	xv d.
payde for his gloves	vj d.
payde vnto the thre men thatt attended	xviij d.
Spente vpon the Companye w*ith*out the barres	ij s. ij d.
more geven to the. Cryer at barrs	vj d.
more geven to apoore blynde boy	ij d.
more geven at the Castell & northgate	ij s.
payde for one pottell seacke	ij s.
payde for our musicke	iiij s.
payde to mr hoolmes for keepinge the banner	xij d.
more for mendinge the iron of it	ij d.
more bestowed vpon mr. Inces. maydes	xij d.
payde at an overplushe [at mr. Inces] at our banquitt ⌈one mid*somer*⌉	xx s.

…

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 50* *(Disbursements)*

…

geuen to the bearebruers	x s.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

f 108 *(25 March 1622–25 March 1623)* *(Disbursements)*

…

It*e*m for a hatt for the Child that did Ride for the Companie on Midsomer Eve	iiij s.
It*e*m for a paire of stockings and garters for the Child	xix d.
It*e*m for a paire of Shooes for the Child	xvj d.
It*e*m paid for Ribbon for the horse head and for shooe tyes	x d.
It*e*m for one dozen of silke poynts and one paire of gloues for the Child	x d.
It*e*m given vnto three men to Attend the Child	xij d.
It*e*m paid for wyne at the dressinge of the Child	viij d.

It*em* paid for wyne at the Banquett	xvj d.
It*em* given to the Cryer at the Barrs	iiij d.
It*em* given to the prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
It*em* given to the Musicke	xviij d.
It*em* given vnto a blynd boy	ij d.
It*em* spent at Alderm*an* Salisburie on Midsomer Eve	xij d.

…

Joiners’, Carvers’, and Turners’ Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2

p 49 *(21 May)*

…

It is agreed that the stewards shall provide a Child to Ride for the Company on Midsomer Eve in such Manner as heretofore [they] hath bene accustomed and that at the same tyme they shall p*ro*vide a Banquett for the Companie as formerlie hath bene vsed

…

Mercers’, Ironmongers’, Grocers’, and Apothecaries’ Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

pp 127–8 *(6 May 1622–2 May 1623)*

…

payde for 3. paiere of mens gloves . w*hi*ch did attend the Ladye at the watch	ij s.
paide the 3. men for theire paines	iij s.
payde for one paier of Gloves for the girle	xvj d.
payde for one paier of shoes and apaier of hoose for her	ij s. x d.
payde for Ribine for shoe tyes and for the horse head. 2 yardes	xij d.
payde for silke Rybine. more for her dressinge	iiij d.
payde vnto S*ir* Henrye Bumberies man for dressinge and Leadinge the horse	ij s. vj d.
more spente in Raph willsons at the barres	ij s.
payde the Cryer at barres	xij d.
Geven vnto the prisoners at Castell and at the Northgate	iiij s.
Geven to apoore blynde boye that drumed	vj d.
payde to the musitions	vj s. viij d.
payde for halfe abarill of beere to Iohn brookes for our banquit	viiij d.
payde for wallnutt*es* orrenges and Lemons	xiiij d.
payde for Cakes and wafers	iiij s.
payde for 2 li. Comffittes	iij s. iiij d.

payde for .4 q*uarte*r 4t of Conceites	x d. ob.
payde for 12 li. prunes	iij s.
payde for .j li. 6. ounc*es* of marmelat at 20 d. p*er* li.	ij s. iij d. ob.
payde for j li. Suger	xvj d.
paide for .2. ounces of Sinamond at	viij d.
payde for Comffett*es*. and Conceites more	xx d. |
payde for one pottell of seacke and one pottell of Clarett wine	iij s. iiij d.
payde for one paier of bootes for the boye	iiij s. vj d.
paide for 3. mens gloves and wages	v s.
paide for Rybbine for the horse head & dressinge	xij d.
payde for apayer of gloves for the boye	ij s.

...

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/2
f [3] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

...

payd for the Childs hose	xv d.
payd for showes	xviij d.
payd for Ribands for showtyes	vj d.
giuen for berradge to the Childes Clothes	iiij d.
spent at the dressinge of the Child	iij d.
payd for Ribands for the horse head	vj d.
payd for tape for the eschochions	j d.
giuen at the barres, Castell and northgate	xij d.
giuen 3 men for Carringe of the banners	xviij d.
giuen to him that led the horse	vj d.
giuen to the man that tended the Child	xij d.
giuen to the minstrell	xij d.
payd for drinke for the Company and there men	ij s. vj d.
giuen in berradge for the garland and Phenix	xij d.
payd for gloues for the Aldermen and Stuards	iij s. iiij d.
payd for gloues for the Child	xij d.
payde for sockete*s* for the [pa] pikes	xviij d.
payd for layinge of 12 pikes in coler	xij d.

...

1622–3

City Treasurer's Account CCALS: ZTAR 3/42
mb [2] *(11 October–10 October) (Payments)*

...

Item paid to mr Richard Bennett drap*er* for ten

yard*es* & ahalf grove cullour brode cloth to make the waytemen gownes at Seaven and eight pence the yarde	iiij li. vj d.
…	
Item paide to the Steward*es* of the Sadlers towardes their Bell at Shrovetyde	vj s. viij d.
…	
Item paide vnto Guest the drum*me*r on Shrove tewsday	xij d.
Item paide vnto henry Barton a Carpenter for takeinge downe the pales at Roodee on Shrovetewsday and for settinge of them vp and Nailes	xij d.
…	
mb [3]	
…	
Item paide to Nicholas halwoodde and Rob*er*t Thorneley for payntinge and Trymeinge of the Giant*es* and beast*es* and the other thinges against midsomer Eve	xliij s. iiij d.
…	
Item paid to Thomas prickett for makeing the new antient for the Cittie	viij s.
Item paide mr Christopher Blease for ix elnes of Taffeta Sercenett at vij s. iiij d. the ell, one yarde and ahalf of Crymson and white Taffeta, Two ounc*es* of Silke one yard and ahalf of None so prettie/ to make a new Auntient	iiij li. x s. xj d.
Item paide ‸⸢mr⸣ Randull holme for his payntinge guildinge and tryminge the Auntient with gold & Coullors	xij s.
…	
Item paid to Nicholas hallwood and Rob*er*t Thorneleye for payntinge and settinge forth of the maiors mounte	xxvj s. viij d.
…	
Item paid Thomas wealche Coop*er* for his paynes to beare the Citties Auntient on midsomer Eve	ij s. vj d.
…	

5/ Shrovetyde: *23–5 February 1622/3*

7–8, 11/ Shrove tewsday, Shrovetewsday: *25 February 1622/3*

27/ None … prettie: *in italic script*

Cathedral Treasurers' Accounts CCALS: EDD 3913/1/4
p 161 *(25 November–25 December)*

...

Item to a watchman at Chrestmas	ij s. vj d.

...

p 167 *(29 September–25 November 1623)*

...

Item for bonefires & triumphes at the Princes returne	xxxiiij s. vij d.
Item the Cornetts at the Assises	ij s. vj d.

...

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2
ff [67–7v] *(29 November–29 November) (Disbursements)*

...

Midsomer Charges

	Geven vnto Thomas Gillam at the Request of Sir Thomas Smith knight then mayor ‸⌈but the companie not to be bound thereby hereafter⌉	v s.
	payde for a payer of stockinges, and a payer of Shooes for our boye	iiij s. |
	payde for a payer of gloves. for hym	xx d.
	Spente at the dressinge of the boye	ij s.
	more spente in provydinge, and in goeinge, to gett a goulde cheane and other thinges to furnish our boye	ij s.
	payde vnto them that did attende the horse	viij d.
®xx d.	payde for prvines Comfeattes, apples Lemons oringes and other banqueitinge stuffe	iiij s.
	payde for Cheese Cakes and breade	vj s.
®8 s.	payde for halfe a barill of march beere	x s.
	payde for wine at our banquett	iiij s. viij d.
	payde the musicioners for musicke	vj s.
	payde for Lambe in steade of A Salmon which we shoulde a had at our banquett	iij s. iiij d.
	Geven vnto the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
	Geven at the Castell and northgate	xij d.
	paide vnto mr Hoolmes for keepinge our banner	xij d.
	payde for mendinge the Iron of our banner which was broken	iiij d.

...

28, 30/ iiij s., x s.: *the scribe has underlined the original sum and placed a new one in the right margin*

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29

ff [29v–30] *(13 January 1622/3–13 January 1623/4) (Disbursements)*

...

Mydsomer Charge

Inprimis paide for stronge beere	v s.
payde for Cheese	ij s. vj d.
paide for apples	ix d.
paide for prvines	ix d.
payde for Synamon and suger	ix d.
paide for the boyes hoose and shooes	iij s. viij d.
paide for his gloves	xij d.
payde for two payer of gloves for the two men	viij d.
payde. for iij li. powder and match at 14 d. *per* li. is	iij s. x d.
payde for breade	ij s.
payde for one quarte seacke & j quarte Clarrett	xx d.
payde & spente at the barres	xviij d.
more geven the Cryer at barres	iiij d.
payde & geven to the prisoners at Castell and northgate	x d.
more geven vnto Richarde Clerke	iiij d.
more spente at the dressinge of the boye	iiij d.
payd to the 4 shott men and. 2 pickemen	iij s.
paide for our musicke	xviij d. |
more payde for. 2 payer of gloves for will*iam* pew and will*iam* Catherall Ioyners	xij d.
payde for the loone of a picke and gorgett	iij d.

...

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 52 *(11 November–11 November) (Receipts)*

...

Rec*eived* of Randall Ince for his absence and his mans at midsomer watch to paye	vj d.

...

f 54 *(Payments)*

...

Inprimis payde vpon St Martens daye at an overplushe at our dynner	xij s.
more Geuen vnto Iacob Carters man by the Appoyntem*ent* of the Aldermen & Companye	ij s.
more payde vnto Roberte kellye for musicke	ij s.

...

f 55

payde for our Sixe gleaves vj s. and for berrage xviij d. some is	vij s. vj d.

…

more spent. in speakinge for A dynner at mr. Inces for the Companye one Thursday at shrovetyde	vj d.
Spente at mr Throppes howse after the horse Race in bere	vj d.
payde to the wayte men and to Roberte kellye for musicke. at shrove tyde	iiij s. vj d.
payde at an over plushe at shrovetyde at our ffishe dynner	vj s.
payde for one quarte of seacke after the drinkinge at Randall. Inces	xij d.

…

ff 55v–6

…

midsom*er* Charge

paid to mr hoolmes for keepinge our baner	xij d. |
paide for one yarde of sylke Ryben	vj d.
payde. for beere w*i*thout the barres	iij s. ij d.
payde to the Cryer at barres	vj d.
paide to the prisoners at Castell and northgate	vj s.
payde for three quartes of seacke at our banquitt	iij s.
paide for the lone of A sadell for our boye	v d.
paide for the loone of Ahat and feather for the boye	vj d.
payde for his gloves	x d.
paide for his stockinges and poyntes	ij s. vj d.
payde at the dressinge of the boye	xij d.
Spente at mr Inces one the even at the Call of the book	xviij d.
paide for two yardes sylke Rebyn for the horse	xij d.
paid for the boyes shooes	xvj d.
paide for our musicke	iiij s.
paid to the man that did leade the horse	xviij d.
paid to hym that Caried the banner	vj d.
paid to one. other man that helde the boye	vj d.
more Spent w*i*th mr Ince. one the Companyes busynesse	vij d.
more Spente at an overplushe after our banquitt one midsomer even	xx s.

…

7/ Thursday at shrovetyde: *27 February 1622/3*
10, 11/ shrove tyde, shrovetyde: *23–5 February 1622/3*

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1

p 51*

…

geuen to the bearebruers for a salmon & for dressinge the Child	x s.

…

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42

single sheet *(1 August 1623–1 August 1624) (Disbursements)*

…

Imprimis paid to make vp the Reconinge at Mr Whiteheads house the first of A⸢u⸣gust 1623	v s. iiij d.
It*em* paid vnto George Cally for musicke the same day	v s.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1

ff 110–10v *(25 March 1623–25 March 1624) (Disbursements)*

…

°Midsom*er* Eve°

It*em* paid for a hatt for the boy that did Ride for the Companie on Midsomer Eve	iij s.
It*em* paid for a paire of stockings and garters for him	ij s. vj d.
It*em* paid for a paire of shooes	xvj d.
It*em* for gloves and points	xiiij d.
It*em* for shooe tyes and Ribbon for the horse head	viij d.
It*em* spent at Widow Pues w*ith*out the Barrs by the Alderm*ans* appointment	xvj d.
It*em* given to the Cryer At the Barrs	iiij d.
It*em* given to the Prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
It*em* given to Clarke the Cowp*er* a poore man	ij d.
It*em* given More for Ribboninge for the horse	vj d.
It*em* given to a man for trimminge the horse	vj d.
It*em* spent more vpon the same man	ij d. |
Item paid for a quarte of wyne at the dressinge of the Child	viij d.
Item spent the same day vpon the Companie at Alderman Salisburies house	xvj d.
Item paid for one quarte of wyne for the Companie at their Banquett the same day	viij d.
It*em* given vnto three footmen that did attend the Child	xij d.
It*em* paid for paintinge of the staffe	xij d.

…

It*em* paid vnto the Musitioners that did Attend the Companie on Midsom*er* Eve ij s.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2

p 55 *(11 June)*

…

All the Companie now present have Agreed that the stewards shall provide a Banquett for the Companie vpon Midsomer Eve, and the Companie to Contribute therevnto accordinge to Ancient Custome

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 135 *(2 May 1623–7 May 1624)*

	li.	s.	d.
…			
It*em* pa*i*d for ap*ai*r of gloues for the boy	00	01	08
It*em* 3 p*ai*r of gloues for 3 men that did attend him	00	02	00
It*em* pa*i*d for ap*ai*r shewes j p*ai*r garter and a p*ai*r stoc*kings* for ye boy	00	05	00
It*em* pa*i*d for the lone of a hat for him	00	01	00
It*em* ij l. ½ of Comfitt*es* at 18 d. p*er* l.	00	03	09
It*em* in Conseat*es* 14 d. ¼ li. wet sucket and ¼ l. dry 20 d. all	00	02	10
It*em* in orringes and lemone*s* 10 d. wafers & cak*es* 4 s. all	00	04	10
It*em* xij li. prunes 3 s. li. ¾ of marmelat 18 d. p*er* li. 21 s. 7 d. ½ als	00	05	07½
It*em* shuger j li. ¼ 18 d. senanent 2 oz 8 d. all	00	02	02
It*em* pa*i*d Io*hn* Blanchard for halfe abar*rel* of Beare	00	10	00
Ribin for the horse hed and tayle and for the boyes shewes	00	01	04
It*em* pa*i*d 3 men to attend the boy 3 s. and to a man for dressing the horse 14 d. all	00	04	02
It*em* to the musicke	00	06	08
It*em* to the preson*er*s at northgate & Castle iiij s. to the Cryer 12 d.	00	05	00
It*em* spent at Raph Wilsons	00	02	00
It*em* 2 yard*es* 2 d. Ribin to tye the Iewe(.) 4 d. to apoor man 3 d.	00	00	07
…			
It*em* 3 quart*es* sack and j pottl Clar*et*: to the bancket	00	04	04
It*em* for aples & strawberyes	00	00	08

…

Painters', Glaziers', Embroiderers', and Stationers' Accounts
CCALS: ZG 17/2
f [5] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

...

payd vpon Midsomer eue for all thinges concerning the boy horse and Musick	xj s. iiij d.
spent at dressing the Child	vj d.
payd for gloues for the Aldermen and Stewards	iij s. iiij d.
payd to the barres Castell and Northgate	xij d.
Spent at the Stuards after the wache on midsomer eve	ij s. vj d.
for 4 silken banners for the speares and gilding 6 phoenixes	ij s.
for 4 new Scockets for the speares	xv d.
...	
payd for Cullering the pickes	x d.

...

1623–4

Mayors' Books CCALS: ZMB 31
f [80v] *(23 April)*

Articles to be obser⟨.⟩ed p*er*formed and ⟨...⟩ at the Runninge of foure Traines and a b⟨...⟩ for a siluer Cupp waighinge 20 ounces ⟨..⟩ the value of vj li. vpon St George his daye be⟨.⟩nge the 23th of Aprill 1624 begun*ne* and proiected in the tyme of the Maioralty of Iohn Brereton Maior of the City of Chester for the Hono*ur* and Renowne of the said City & Com*m*endable Recrea*ci*on of gentl*emen* of worth and quality and foreuer to be Continued out of a Stocke raised [for] to the purpose./

Imprimis It is agreed that all Ryders shall waigh ten stone Sadled & Brydled & to be waighhed at thend of eu*ery* heate and that they shall ryde fower heat*es* and a Course & shall sett forth neere at the Stone Bridge at eu*ery* heate and soe alonge the Roodye leauinge all the poles vpon the right hand, and if any shall fayle therein then his horse to be taken vp and he to loose the race or to Runne about the Pole againe, and at eu*ery* Pole ther shalbe one tryer such as M*aste*r Mai*or* shall appoint by whome it shalbe Iudged who hath fayled./

It*em* if any horse shall happen to be shortsixe score at the end of any heate then that horse to be taken vp and to ryde noe more, and a quarter of an hower allowed for to Rubbe after eu*ery* heate & nothing but naturall water to be giuen to thee horses in the Interim of any heate./

It*em* euery one that runnes to put in xx s. eu*ery* heate and the formost to haue all, and for the Course xx s., a peece to be disposed of by M*aste*r Maior./

13/ Scockets: *for* Sockets

It*e*m if any of the ryders shall happen to fall he shall onely loose the benefitte of that heate and Come in againe for the rest of the traines and Race./

f [84v]* *(24 July)*

…

⟨…⟩ued of Iohn Andrew Beerebrewer ⟨…⟩ guifte of the Company of Beerebrewers ⟨…⟩d toward*es* the free bell for St George ⟨…⟩ace [⟨…⟩] the som*me* of iij li. ix s. I say R*eceived* iij li. ix s.

(4 August)

m*aste*r Maior of the guifte of the Company ⟨…⟩holders for and toward the free Bell ⟨…⟩ St George his race the som*me* of ix li. xj s. I say ix li. x⟨..⟩

…

A ***Mayors List 6*** BL: Harley MS 2125

f 126* *(10 October 1623–15 October 1624)*

…

this maior caused first st Geo*rge* Rase on Roodey the 23 Aprell 1624 to be begone at the poynt behond new Tower & to Run 5 tymes about the Roodey & he that wan the last Course or Trayne to haue the bell of a good valew of 8 or 10 li. or therabout to haue it for euer. w*hi*ch moneyes was collected of Cittisens to a some for same purposse the 3 former li. bells of mr Amoryes beinge sould & a 100 li. more gathared the vse therof to find a Cupp he Caused the new tower Gate to be enlarged for the sayd horsrace w*hi*ch before was but a small gate for the rome of 3 horses to run in brest & caused the gutters to be filled in the Roodey w*i*th the muckhill called pudinghill at the gate.

…

AC ***Mayors List 12*** CCALS: ZCR 469/542

f [41] *(10 October 1623–15 October 1624)*

…

This yeare the Race vppon the Roode dee wos made to be rune from behinde the new towre about the Roode dee and a free Cupp worth 7 or 8 li. prouided [ye⟨…⟩ly] by the Citty to be Rune for yearly./

…

Chester Cathedral Accounts St George's Chapel Archives: SGC XV.59.37

f 9 *(25 November–25 December) (Extraordinary expenses)*

…

It*e*m the wayt*es* xviij d.

…

Beer-Brewers' Company Book CCALS: ZG 3/2

ff [70v–1] *(28 November–28 November)*

…

Mydsom*er* accomptes and suite.

	Inp*rim*is for bread and Cheese at the banquett	iij s. viij d.
	more for prunes Confytt*es* Synamon, sugar Orringes and apples	ij s.
®5 s.	more for halfe a barrell of Stronge beere	viij s.
	more spent at the dressinge of the boy as form*er*lie hath beene vsed	ij s.
	more at the banquett three pottles of wyne	iij s.
	more for a pound of Powder at our banquett by the Companies appoyntm*ent*	xvj d.
	more paid to the drawers of dee for a Samon	vij s.
	payd to mr Holmes for the keeping of the banner	xij d.
	payd for mendinge the banner	[vj d.]
	payd for a payre of stockinges for the boy	ij s.
®12 d.	payd for a payre of gloves for the boy	ij s.
®8 d.	paid for a man to Carrie the banner	xij d.
®5 s.	payd to the Musition*ers*	vj s. |
	more for borrowinge of two chaynes, and Ieuels and other necessaries	ij s.
	…	
	more given to the Cryer at the barres	iiij d.
	given to the prison*ers* at the Castle	vj d.
	given to the prison*ers* at the Northgate	vj s.

…

Bowyers', Fletchers', Coopers', and Stringers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 7/29

f [34] *(13 January 1623/4–13 January 1624/5)*

…

13. Ia*nuarye* 1623	Inprimis payde. at o*ur* william ffishers sheriffe at his howse, for our dynner after our meetinge vpon the xiijth daye of Ianuarye Anno d*omin*i 1623. for the wholl Companye	xx s.
	…	
	payde to Thomas williams for musicke at our dynner	ij s. x d.
	more geven vnto the sayde Thomas Williams for musicke at margerye phillippes howse	ij s.

…

8, 18, 19, 20/ viij s., ij s., xij d., vj s.: *the scribe has underlined the original sum and placed a new one in the right margin* f [35]

The iijth of May 1624

Payd for musicke at mr fisheres at Owen Morris dinner	ij s. vj d.
payd more for beare	ij s.
payd more for wyne	v s. vj d.

Midsomer Charge

payd for powder and mach	iij s. vj d.
payd for pruines & other spice	xv d.
payd for Chese	ij s. ix d.
payd for gloues	xv d.
payd for stockins for the boye	ij s. viij d.
payd for appell*es*	viij d.
payd for bred	ij s.
payd for beare	v s. vj d.
payd for ij picke men	viij d.
payd for iiij shote	ij s.
payd for Musicke	iiij s.
payd at the barres	vj d.
payd at the Castell	iiij d.
payd at the Northgate	vj d.
payd for gloues for the men w*hi*ch did Lead the Child	xvj d.
payd for ij C wallnutt*es*	viij d.
payd for a pottell of Clarett wyne j quart secke	ij s.
payd vnto the man w*hi*ch Lead the horse	xij d.
given vnto william Ashton for Lone of the horse	iiij d.
given more vnto wayett	j d.
Spent at the borroweing of one picke	j d.

…

payde the vth of August beinge the Kinges holy daye	viij d.
more Spent the daye at widdowe Annisons	x d.
payd at hireing of the Musicke	iiij d.

…

Cordwainers' and Shoemakers' Accounts CCALS: ZG 8/4

f 60 *(11 November–11 November) (Disbursements)*

…

Inprimis payde the xjth daye of November 1623 beinge St m*ar*tens daye. at an over plush after our dynner	xviij s.

4/ dinner: *4 minims in MS*

more payde for one pottell of Seacke the same tyme	ij s.
payde to Roberte kellye for musicke at the same dynner	ij s. vj d.

...

more payde for musicke at Stewarde wrightes howse when the Companye wente to drinke w*i*th hym	ij s. vj d.

...

f 60v

...

Shroftyde./

payde. vnto Greiffyth for the sixe gleaves	vj s.
paide to the berrage	xij d.
more payde. after our drinkinge at an overplush the Companye beinge p*re*sent	xiij s.
more payde the same tyme for one pottell of seacke	ij s.
paide to the waytmen	ij s.
paide to Roberte kellye	ij s. vj d.

...

ff 61–1v

...

°Stockinges for the Boey iij s. x d.	
Showties for the Boey	jx d.
Poynts for the Boey	ij s. ij d. |
Spent in dressinge the Boey	xij d.
Payd for Gloues for the Boey	xiiij d.
Payd for Ribben for the Horse	xij d.
Payd for the lone of a Hatt	viij d.
Payde to Maister Holems for the Banner	xij d.
Payde to the men that did leade the horse	iij s.
Spent at the Barrs	ij s. vj d.
Giuen to the Crier at the Barrs	vj d.
Payd for the lone of a Saddle	vj d.
Spent in drinkinge out of our Beare	xvj d.
Giuen at the Castle	xij d.
Giuen at the Northgate	xij d.
Spent ouerplus att our banquet on Midsomar Eue	viij d.
ffor a Pottle of sacke	ij s.
Payd to Robart Kelley	iiij s.
[Payd for the boyes shoues	xx d.]°

...

10/ Shroftyde: *7–9 February 1623/4*

Drawers of Dee's Company Book CCALS: ZG 10/1
p 52*

. . .

geuen to the bearebruers	x s.

. . .

Innkeepers' Company Loose Financial Papers CCALS: ZG 13/42
single sheet *(1 August–1 August) (Disbursements)*

. . .

It*em* paid to make vp the Reconinge at Mr Salisburies the 28 of Aprill	vij s.
It*e*m paid for wyne to the same dinner	vj s. vj d.
It*em* given vnto the Cooke	vj d.
It*e*m given to George Callie for Musicke	v s.

. . .

It*e*m paid for stockings shooes and garters for the boy on Midsom*er* Eve	v s.
It*e*m paid for the vse of a hat for the boy	xij d.
It*em* given to the prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	xij d.
It*e*m given to the Cryer at the Barrs	vj d.
It*e*m paid for powder and Match for the watchmen	vij s. vj d.
It*e*m paid vnto 3 men to Attend the boy	ij s.
It*em* paid vnto George Callie for Musicke	vj s. viij d.
It*e*m spent at Henrie Phillips on Midsom*er* eve	iij s. vj d.
It*em* spent more vpon the Company that same day and for a banquet	v s.
It*e*m paid to Mr Holmes for keepinge the Banner	xij d.
It*em* paid vnto Handcocke for keepinge the painted Cloths	xij d.

. . .

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Company Book CCALS: ZG 14/1
f 112 *(25 March 1624–25 March 1625) (Disbursements)*

. . .

Imprimis for a paire of shooes for the Child vpon Midsomer eve	xiiij d.
Item for a paire of stockeinges for the Child	xvj d.
It*e*m for one dosen of points	iiij d.
It*e*m for a paire of garters	vj d.
It*e*m for Ribboninge for the Childes shooes and for the horse head	xij d.
It*e*m for a quarte of Wyne at the dressinge of the Childe	vj d.
It*e*m [for] to a man for dressinge the horse	vj d.
It*e*m paid for a hatt for the Child	iiij s.

It*em* paid for a paire of gloves	viij d.
It*em* paid for a skaine of silke	j d.
It*em* given to the prisoners at the Castle and Northgate	viij d.
Item given to the Cryer at the Barres	iiij d.
It*em* paid for a quart of sacke at the Banquett	xij d.
It*em* paid to three men to Attend the Child	xij d.
It*em* paid vnto the Musicke	ij s.
It*em* spent vpon Midsomer Eve at Widow Pues house	xij d.

…

f 112v

…

It*em* spent at Alderm*an* Pues at the dynner made there by Iohn Robinson for the whole Company	x s.

…

It*em* given to the Musicke at the same tyme	vj d.

…

Joiners', Carvers', and Turners' Minutes CCALS: ZG 14/2

p 67 *(8 June)*

…

It is agreed that A banquett shall be provided by the stewards for the Company vpon midsom*er* Eve and everie brother to pay theire accustomed duties and to attend them selues and theire watchm*en* as formerlie they haue done.

…

Mercers', Ironmongers', Grocers', and Apothecaries' Company Book CCALS: ZG 16/6582/2

p 139 *(7 May 1624–6 May 1625) (Disbursements)*

	li.	s.	d.
…			
the 19th of Iune 1624 for oringes & lemons	00	01	06
for Waffornes & Cakes	00	04	00
Cumffet*es* 2 li. ¾	00	04	01
Marmelate j li. ¾	00	02	07
Suger j li. ¼	00	01	06
Suger plates ½ li.	00	01	04
Wet suckett ¼ li.	00	00	05
Dry suckett ¼ li.	00	01	03
pruines 8 li.	00	01	08
Synomond 2 q*uarte*r	00	00	08
hallfe barell stronge beare	00	08	00

j pottell sacke j potell claret	00	03	00
bouttes for the boye	00	05	00
a p*air* of shewes for the gerlle	00	02	00
a p*air* of hose for her	00	02	06
a p*air* of garttrs	00	02	00
riben for shewes & both horse hed*es*	00	01	06
2 p*air* gloues	00	07	04
6 p*air* mens gloues	00	05	06
j dosone riben poynt*es* & band tie riben	00	02	04
to seavene men that did attend the Childrn		07	00
to the Mvseke	00	06	08
spent att Willsones	00	02	00
to the Crier	00	02	00
to the presonrs in Castell & northgate	00	04	00

...

Painters’, Glaziers’, Embroiderers’, and Stationers’ Accounts

CCALS: ZG 17/2

f [7] *(18 October–18 October) (Disbursements)*

...

Payd for apayre of stockings apayre of showes a payre of gloues and Showtyes for the child at Midsomer	iiij s. iiij d.
Giuen for gloues for the Aldermen and Stuards	iij s. viij d.
Giuen Thomas williamson Ioyner for Cutting a litle Phoenix	ij s.
ffor a Ryband for the horse head	vj d.
Giuen to the Barrs. Castell. and Northgate	xiiij d.
Spent at dressinge the boy	vj d.
Spent after the wache on Midsomer euen at the Stuard Thomas Waytes howse	ij s. vj d.
Payd to xij men that carried the pikes	vj s.
ffor leading the horse. carr^⌈y⌉inge the banners and garland	ij s. viij d.
Giuen to the 3 Trompetors.	v s. vj d.
ffor guildinge the litle phoenix. for 3 new banners for the pikes, and for 4 phoenixes for the mens heads	iij s.

...

Request from Ringers for a Gratuity CCALS: DCH/E 314

single sheet–single sheet verso *(18 August)*

Ste Peters.

Right wor*shipful* not forgettinge o*ur* olde order at y*our* wor*ships* Coming to the pentice, wee the Ringers at Ste Peters request yo*ur* wor*ships* gratuitie to be bestowed vpon vs being ffyve in number and wee shall as alwayes bound praye for yo*ur* wor*ships* good health & yo*urs*, in all increase of happiness Longe to Continewe/

The Ringers names
Will*ia*m Cawdie Sexton here
marke buxie
Richard done
homphrey Bedford
Georg hickocke/ |

18 Augustij 1624

Ringers of St Peters		2 s.	6 d.
Ringers of St Iohanes		2	6
for l*ett*res sent to nordage		0	6 d.
To mr Savag*es* at Barowe	10	0	0
To the wait*es* of Chester			
To Kelly the musitian			
ffor horsemete 8 horses	10	6	
mendinge the Male			*(blank)*
2 horseclothes			
In reward at north⟨...⟩		7 s.	6 d.

***c* 1624**

A ***Rogers' Breviary*** BL: Harley MS 1948
f 58*

Now of the lawdable exercises and playes
of Chester, yerelye there vsed:

...

ff 60v–4v*

...

This is p*er*formed yearely on shrouetuesday, And the drapers haueinge the homages done to them, they haue also the forfectures if any neclect the same, as many presidentes, and yerely recoueryes of them that p*er*forme not this homage: yea ye drap*ers* haue very anchant recoueries againste diuers that stoode in lawe w*i*th that worshipfull Company of drapers, w*hi*ch Custom cannot be Infringed:

The Custom of the said drapers anchantly was after the balls offered by the shooemakers & sadlers, and ye footeball playe ended, to meete togeather, and to make them drinke, all 3. companies togeather in token of societie [to] ‸⌈at⌉ the charges of the drapers:

But as the alteration is more comendable, so the Charges to the drapers is now agreate deale more Chargeible, for now the said wor*shipfull* Companye | of drapers, doe on the same Shrouetuesdaye (in stid of one drinkinge togeather) after the games be ended, feaste the mayor and aldermen in the Como*n* hall, w*i*th the said 2. Companies of Shooemakers and sadlers, w*i*th bread and beere, & soe likewise on wenseday & thurseday followinge all w*hi*ch is 3 dayes, w*hi*ch is indeede to the greate Charge of the said wor*shipfu*ll Companye of drap*ers*:

The Sheriffes Breakfast on monday in Ester weeke

Beinge a moste anchant Custome, there, on the said monday in Ester weeke the 2. sherifes of ye Cittie to shoote for abreakefast or dinner, of Calues heades & Bacon, the mayor Recorder & Aldermen takeinge p*ar*te w*i*th on sheriffe or the other, and all other gent*lemen* yeomen, or good fellowes, y*a*t will there shoote on either side beinge chosen, doe shote there 3 shootes, beinge bettered still by the winers side w*hi*ch 3 shootes beinge so won, they all take p*ar*te togeather of the same diner or breakefast, the winners side payeinge, ij d. apiece and the lossers side 4 d. apiece, the origenall whereof, no mans memorie can remember, of w*hi*ch anchant custome the time beinge very fittinge, the game beinge moste lawfull, and the ende beinge the comforte societie and recreation of the Cittizens it deserues not onlye greate praise and com*m*endation but also perpetuall Continuance and manteynance: |

The watches of the mayor & Sheriffes at Christ*mas* yerely vsed

Of w*hi*ch thoe mans memorie cannot remember the origenall, yet the Collections of writers, doe shew the cause thereof: The time of the begininge to be in the dayes of (William) the Conqueror, who driueinge the ould Brittons or as is verylye ‸⌈thoughte⌉ the walshe men who did here inhabitt, mixed w*i*th the ould saxons seinge the Normans to haue gotten, the possession of this land and had p*ro*cured som rest & setled themselues in this Cittie in peace, by force of conquest, at a season in the Cristmas when all men giue themselues to securitie, The Walshmen neere neighbors grudgeinge at theire securitie and possession, of theire lande, (As late example we had of the Irishe, in london dery in Ireland, and of later time about an*no* .1620. of the plantation of the Englishe in Virginia) they walshe men came in the nighte time and made a sudden Inuasion, and spoyled and burned som p*ar*te of this Cittie, wherevpon the Conqueror gaue landes, w*i*th the concente of Hugh Lupe his sisters son & Earle of Chest*er*, to diuers who should watche & warde and be readye to defende the Cittie by any seruice, at all times, the w*hi*ch landes are come to the possessions of diuers honorable, & worshipfull p*er*sons,

& others, w*hi*ch now is called the Gable rente at w*hi*ch time of Cristmas allwayes after, they vsed to sett the said tennantes w*i*th all theire forces | accordinglye to watch at that season, to p*re*uente ye like danger, of the walshmen, The w*hi*ch seruice is required, and the houlders of those landes ‸⌜and⌝ doe theire homage before ye mayor & sheriffes at theire watchcourtes at Christmas yearelye to this daye, w*i*th other seruices proper to that tenure only when they are required or com*m*anded, This was the origenall the cause and the continuance of this Custome:

The vse now: of ye watches,

The vse now y*a*t is made thereof is, to p*re*serue the seruice of the anchant tenure, And to cause there apparance before them, there to watch 3 nightes togeather, w*i*th [⟨.⟩] most stronge & well appoynted armore, not fearinge ‸⌜not⌝ now the Inuasion of forraigne or Ciuill enemye, by reason of the p*er*fecte and longe blessed peace we haue enioyed, from God and our gratious Princes, and kinges precedent, But now We vse the same, as to keape the Cittie from danger of fire, theues, dronknes and vncueete mettinges, & drinkeinges in the nightes w*hi*ch mighte be causes of p*er*turbation of peace, and sin againste God, w*hi*ch to these times and moste Incidente, this is the cause of the Continuance thereof now: And after the Courte of theire apparance of the tennantes aforesaid, and the watch there ordered, and giuen, by the Mayor or sheriffes the 3. firste [⟨.⟩] nightes in Christmas, The mayor Aldermen and shereffes, doe all goe togeather to the howses of the mayor & sheriffes as theire nighte | is in course, and doe there banquet togeather, in Ioy as the time requires, not only for the birth of o*u*r blessed redemer, but also for, rememborance of gods greate mercie, in grauntinge vs peace, and plentie, but also, these gratious meanes to p*re*serue our peace and quiet, both of our soules, howses, goods and p*er*sons, w*hi*ch is in my opinion a moste meete honeste and come*n*dable thinge: whereat if anye repine, because there may be sin, I say he ‸⌜or they⌝ muste goe vp to heauen for p*er*fection, for vpon this earth it is not to be founde:

Of the showe at midsomer in Chester:

The bеgininge thereof beinge. vncertayne, but it is more anchante then the Whitson playes, w*hi*ch weare played yerely there for aboue 200 yeares togeather, this midsomer showe, had [in it] diuers thinges in it w*hi*ch weare ofenciue in anchant times, (as Christe in stringes) men in womens apparell, w*i*th Diuells attendinge, them, called cuppes & cannes, w*i*th a diuell in his shape ridinge there, w*hi*ch preachers of Gods worde, and worthye diuines there spake against as vnlawfull and not meete, with diuers other thinges w*hi*ch are now reformed but for the decensie of it now vsed, It is thoughte by all both decente fitt and profitable to the Cittie : |

24/ grauntinge: *3 minims for* un *in* MS

33/ begininge: *4 minims in* MS

St Georges Race on the Roode Dee, of late begone

St Georges race made by mr Rob*ert* Ambrye, Irnemonger, somtimes sherife of Chest*er* it began: 1609.

In An*no* d*omi*ni :1609: mr William Lester, mercer beinge mayor of Chester, mr Robert Ambrye Irnemonger & somtimes Sheriffe of this Cittie vpon his owne coste, did cause 3 siluer bells, to be made of good value, w*hi*ch bells he appoynted to be runne for w*i*th horses on St Georges day vpon the Roode Dee, from the newtower to the netes, & there torninge to runne vp to the watergate, that horse w*hi*ch came first there to haue the best bell, & the second to haue the second bell, for that yere puttinge in money [and] for to ru*n*e, & shuerties to deliuer in the bells y*a*t day twelue month, and the winers had the money put in by those horses that runne, and the vse of the bells, The other bell was appoynted to be rune for the same day at the ringe, vpon the like conditions, This was the firste begininge of St Georges race, to w*hi*ch charges, it is sayd mr Ambrye had som allowance from the Cittie:

St Georges race altered 1623 by mr Iohn Brereton then mayor of Chest*er*:

This continued vntill the yere 1623: In w*hi*ch yeare mr Iohn Brereton ^⌈°a worthie famous Cittizen of Chester°⌉ then mayor of Chester, altered the said race, to runne from ^⌈behonde⌉ the Newtower, & so rownd about the Roode Dee, And the bell to be agreater value and afree bell, to haue it freely foreuer that shall winne the same, to w*hi*ch he gaue liberallye, & caused the oulde bells w*i*th more money to be put | out in vse the w*hi*ch vse shoulde make the free bell yerely foreuer, There to be runne for on the said St Georges day foreuer, This I heare to be the new alteration the w*hi*ch if by reporte I [cr] erre I craue p*ar*don & desire it maye be truly corected, |

Now of the playes of Chester Called the whitson playes:

The author of them:

The matter of them:

The first time played:

The players & charges thereof:

The manner of them:

The maker and first Inuenter of them was one Rondoll a monke in the Abbaye of Chester whoe did transelate the same, into Englishe, & made them into partes and pagiantes, as they then weare played: The matter of them was the historye of the bible, mixed with some other matter: The time they weare firste sett forthe, and played was in an*no* :1339: S*i*r Iohn ^⌈Arnewaye⌉ beinge mayor of Chester: The actors and players, weare the occupations & Companies of this Cittie, the Charges and costes ^⌈thereof⌉ w*hi*ch weare greate, was theires also: The time of the yeare they weare played was on monday, tuesday & wenseday in whitson weeke: The maner of these playes weare, euery Company had his pagiant or p*ar*te w*hi*ch pagiants, weare a high scafolde with 2. rowmes ahiger & alower, vpon 4 wheeles In the lower they apparelled them selues, And In the higher rowme they played beinge all open on the tope that all behoulders mighte heare & see them,:

16–17/ a ... Chester: *in RH II's hand*

The places where ye played them:

The places where the played them was in euery streete, They begane first at the Abay gates, and when the firste pagiante was played, it was wheeled to the | highe Crosse before the mayor, and so to euery streete, and soe euery streete had a pagiant playinge before them at one time tell ‸⌜all⌝ the pagiantes for the daye appoynted weare played, and when one pagiant was neere ended worde was broughte from streete to streete that soe the might ⌜come⌝ in place thereof, excedinge orderlye and all the streetes haue theire pagiantes afore them all at one time playeinge togeather to se w*hi*ch playes was greate resorte, and also scafoldes and stages made in the streetes ‸⌜in⌝ those places where they determined to playe theire pagiantes:

…

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…These seauen pagiantes weare played on the third day beinge wenseday in whitson weeke: the laste time these playes weare played in Chester was an*no* do*mi*ni 1574: S*ir* Iohn Sauage beinge mayor of Chester Iohn Allen & William Goodman sheriffes thus in breife of the playes of Chester:

10/ pagiantes: *a list of companies and their parts follows*